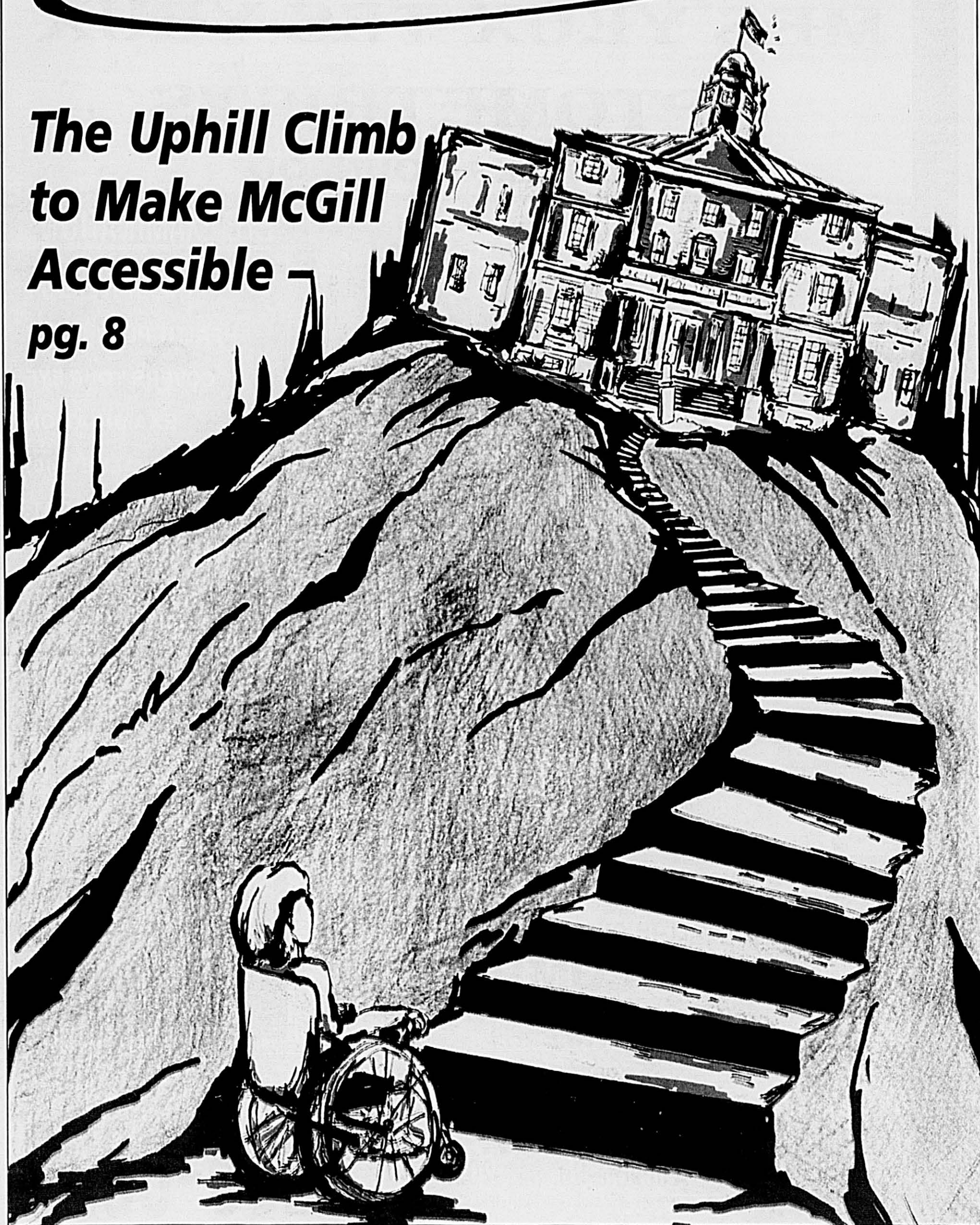


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# THE MCGILL DAILY

***The Uphill Climb  
to Make McGill  
Accessible***

**pg. 8**



Inside: **Protesting W. • Virginia Woolf • Same-Sex Marriage Debate**



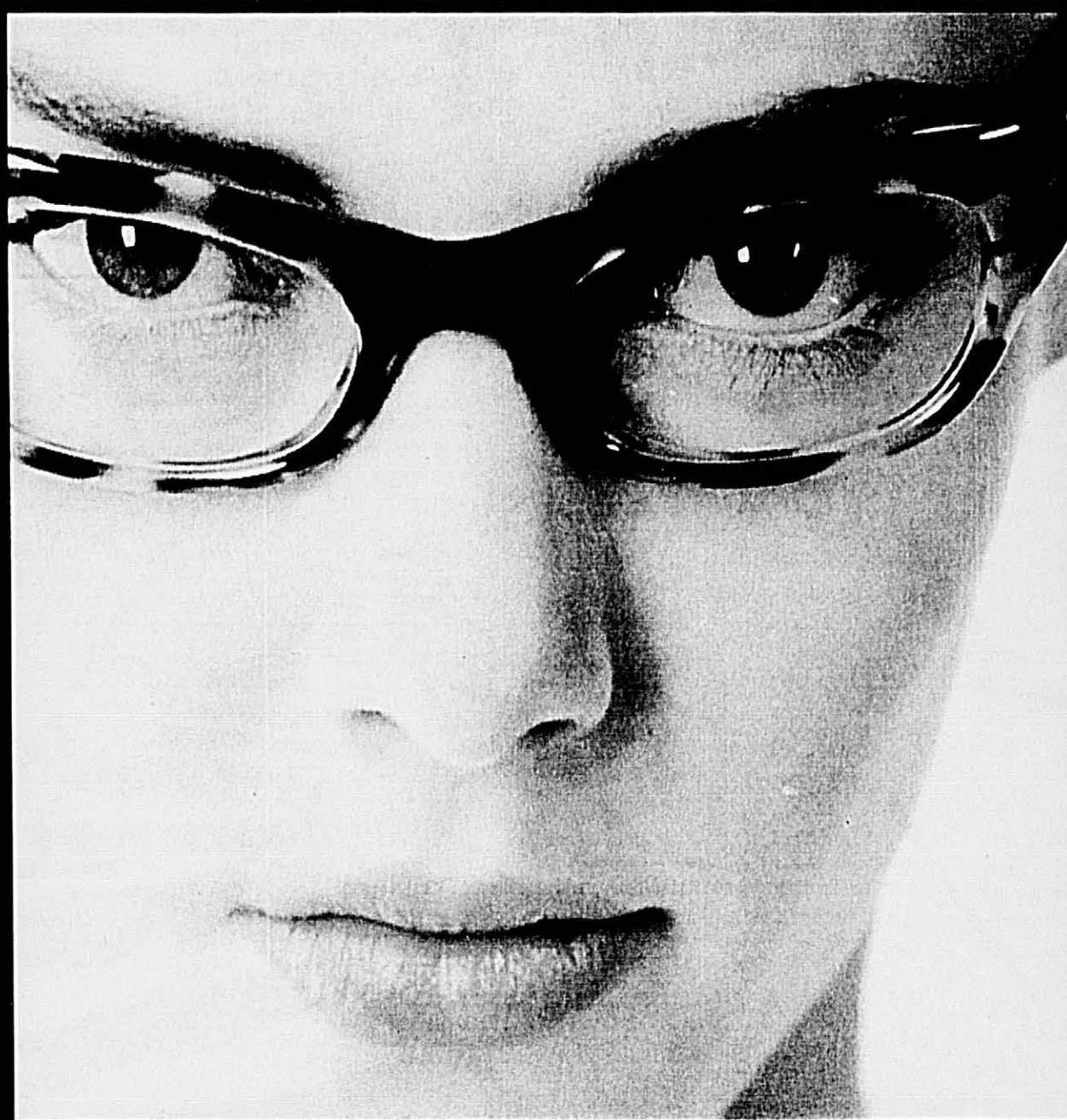
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# Same-Sex Marriage Debate Comes to Campus

*Campus activists condemn two McGill profs testifying against queer couple*

BY JOSLYN OOSEBERG  
News Reporter

Two McGill professors are testifying against same-sex marriage in a Montreal case that could change Canada's definition of marriage, and their stances on the matter have stirred up controversy on campus.

Margaret Somerville, a professor of Medical Ethics, and Katherine Young, a Religious Studies professor, are acting as expert witnesses for the government in defense of legislation that restricts marriage to the union of a man and a woman.

Project Interaction, an initiative launched by students from McGill's School of Social Work aimed at raising awareness about gay and lesbian issues, circulated petitions via e-mail last week, decrying Somerville and Young's views on same-sex marriage. According to the Project's e-mail, the rights of gays, lesbians and bisexuals are threatened by legislation against same-sex marriage, since their access to equality is threatened.

"We hope you will join with us in our protest against the position of these two professors by signing the attached e-mail petition and sending it directly to them," read the petition.

The two plaintiffs in the case, René LeBoeuf and Michael Hendrix, are challenging the Quebec Civil Law, which states that a marriage license can be granted only to a man and a woman. They charge that this violates the Province's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which has forbidden discrimination against gay men and lesbians since 1967.

They are also challenging the province's right to decide who can get married, which they claim is federal jurisdiction. John Fisher, the Executive Director for EGAL, Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, does not support the decision of the two professors to contribute their expertise to the defense. "This is a certainly a significant case," he said.



Two Quebec men are in court trying to convince a judge to let them get married

"We are obviously disappointed in the position they have chosen to take."

Hendricks, 59, and LeBoeuf, 45, have been living together in a serious relationship for 28 years. When they went to obtain a marriage license on their 25th anniversary on Sep. 14, 1998, they were flatly refused. Their lawyer, Stephane Gendron, immediately filed a lawsuit.

"I think that the heart of this case is equality and the issue of who has rights and who doesn't," said Jeffrey Stein, a member of Project Interaction. "[It is about] whether all people should have access to the same social institutions and the same privileges and responsibilities and rights that go with them."

According to Shauna van Praagh, a professor at McGill's Faculty of Law, the case could fundamentally change the relationship between the notion of "spouse" and the institution of marriage as interpreted by the law. "It is a challenge to the law of Quebec, whether stated in the Civil Code or elsewhere, to expand the notion of spouse to include same-sex couples."

She added that a successful verdict would most likely bring about significant changes to several laws that refer to the term "spouse." "This would make a big difference for a lot of purposes... financial and economic purposes such as taxes and pen-

sions, and for family benefits such as health and drugs," she said.

However, van Praagh argue that the extension of such benefits to same-sex couples need not necessarily involve the reorganization of the ancient institution of marriage. According to her, equal access to benefits could be achieved through a redefinition of the term "spouse."

"There are all kinds of pieces of legislation, both provincially and federally, that refer to spouses, and that have traditionally been defined as being restricted to someone who is married," she said. "Although more recently, at both the provincial and federal level, [judges] have begun to include people who are partners that have not actually gone through a marriage ceremony."

She added that there is considerable ambiguity in the term. "There is no one place to look for a definition of spouse," she said. "We don't have one dictionary that everyone can look in for society's definition. Often we use the word without defining it. In fact that's often the problem: it's not defined."

On June 10, 1999, the Quebec National Assembly passed Bill 32, which "modified all laws and regulations containing a definition of common-law spouses...to explicitly include the notion of same-sex common-law spouses," including those pertaining to social benefits, tax deductions and pension benefits.

On Jan. 14, 2001, two same-sex couples legally married in a joint service before 1,000 people at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Toronto. The marriage was accomplished through the ancient Christian tradition of the banns that allows churches to issue a marriage license, according to centuries-old common law that is recognized in Ontario.

Project Interaction's Stein is encouraged and pleased to see Hendricks and LeBoeuf persisting in their case. "I think it's a great opportunity for us to rally together," he said, "and stand for the equal rights of all students at McGill, and all Canadians in general."



O Brother, Why Aren't Thou at the News Meeting?  
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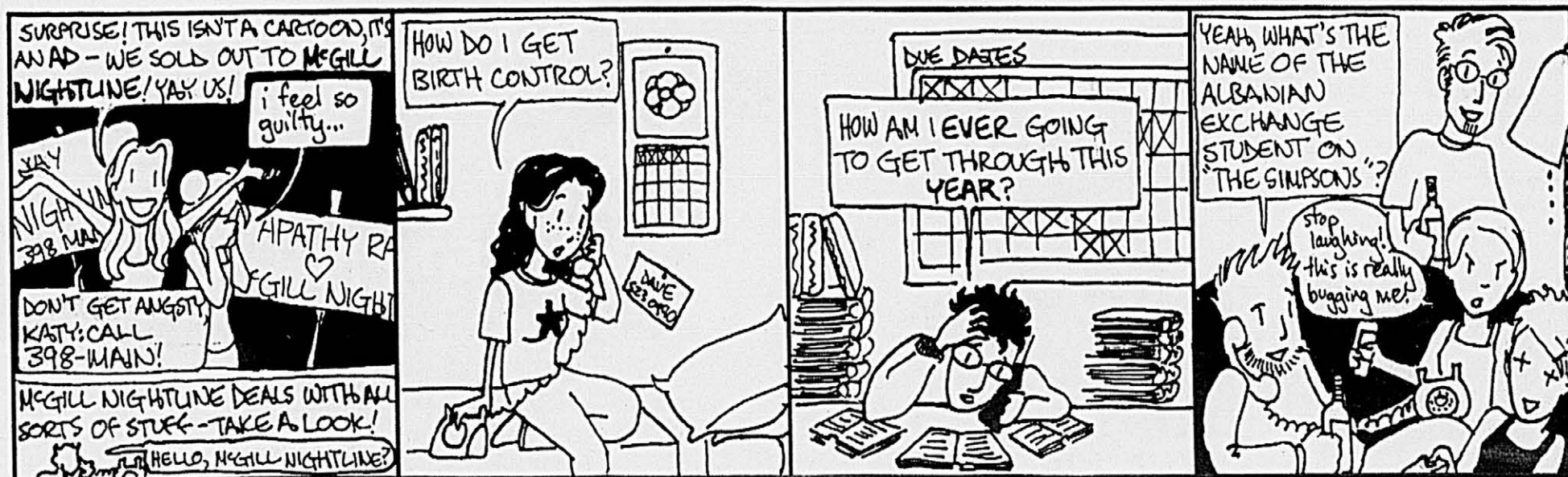


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## news-briefs



### CONFUSION SHROUDING PROPOSAL FOR SSMU FEE HIKE, SSMU PRES SAYS

SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak said at an SSMU Council meeting on Thursday that something needed to be done about all the confusion surrounding the proposal for the Campus Life Fund (CLF) which would see student fees climb by another \$3.90 next year.

Citing what he called misinformed reports in the student media regarding the CLF, Baraniak set out Thursday to clarify the fact behind the new fee that, if approved by SSMU Council, it could be put to the student body in a referendum in March.

Although the fee was tentatively set at \$2 per student at a council meeting two weeks ago, Baraniak also announced that that amount had already been hiked to \$3.90.

"I'm a fiscal conservative and I don't like announcing this," he stated.

Baraniak proceeded to provide a number of examples of how revenues from the CLF could be spent. The fee would fund student activities that SSMU says it is unable to fund under its current budget. Baraniak gave the examples of attracting guest speakers to McGill, scheduling more social events, and lending a hand to McGill's cash-strapped sports teams.

"My point is simple. These students dedicate a large portion of their university careers to representing McGill, but they have to pay for their own jerseys, travel expenses, and in the case of McGill rugby, their own chalk to mark-up the pitch for games," he told Council.

He also explained that the CLF would replace the existing SSMU Special Projects Fund (SPF) and is intended to generate revenue for groups that are not eligible for SPF funding. In addition, he explained his hope to convince McGill administrators and alumni to contribute funding to match what students provide in the way of new fees.

In a report submitted to Council, Baraniak described the recent expiration of an agreement between SSMU and the Post-Graduate Student Society and a new annual \$100,000 utility bill for the Shatner building as "a set of problems with only one solution."

Asked by Clubs Representative Suzy Loney if SSMU really had to hike fees again, Baraniak said that he felt there was little choice.

"In terms of other sources of revenue, we are at our limit, short of putting a corporate logo on our building," he said.

Baraniak finished up by asking Council members to return to the next Council meeting in two weeks with feedback from their constituents. "Ultimately it must be the students who decide," he said.

- Alexandra Clemence

### ALBERTA PUMPS NEW MONEY INTO EDUCATION

After months of pleas from student representatives and administrators, the Alberta government announced last week that it would finally start putting money back into

post-secondary education.

Colleges and universities will be getting \$25-million from the government thanks to 10 recommendations made by the provincial funding review committee, which has been mulling over funding for post-secondary education since it was established in March 2000.

Lyle Oberg, Alberta's Minister of Higher Learning, accepted all ten recommendations.

Of the \$25-million for the province's post-secondary institutions, approximately \$13-million is earmarked for faculty retention and attraction. The remaining \$12-

million will go towards establishing more equitable funding across the board. A portion of that cash could be used to reduce tuition, which has risen by 208.8 per cent in 10 years, however, that decision of how much remains up to the institutions.

Naomi Agard, Vice-President External of the University of Alberta's Students' Union, said that student demands were not met by the new funding. Requests for a 2 per cent tuition cap and the formation of a provincial Social Science and Humanities Research Council, were ignored, she said.

Ministry of Learning spokesperson Randy Kilburn said the main priorities of the government are maintaining funding flexibility and responsibility.

Rob Renner, chair of the funding review committee and a Medicine Hat MLA, said he is happy the government accepted the report. "This is a very fair reflection of what we heard in recent consultation. And I think it goes a long way towards ensuring we have one of the best post-secondary systems in North America," he said.

However, Agard said that the committee

failed to address many fundamental university funding needs.

"We don't have enough money in the system right now to address problems like infrastructure, tuition, and maintaining good faculty," she said.

At the very least, however, she said, last week's announcement is a step in the right direction.

"It gives me some hope. It's time for this kind of funding," said Agard.

- Christie Tucker

Alberta Bureau Chief, Edmonton

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# University, Brought to You By...

*College students jump at the prospect of corporate sponsors putting them through school*

BY ALEX HALPERIN  
News Reporter

"Chris and Luke are the N'Sync of the business world," gushes Publicist Karen Ammond. Chris Barrett and Luke McCabe are high school seniors in Haddonfield, New Jersey trying to persuade corporations to finance their college education. They approve of the almighty label.

"N'Sync is a pretty popular band. They have a lot of girls following them and they make millions of dollars. So, that's fine, I guess," said Chris in an interview with The Daily last week.

Thanks to Ammond, Chris and Luke can count themselves among a new class of celebrities, lacking traditional celebrity talents but willing to take corporate money to put their lives on display. The two have agreed to be walking, talking billboards for just about any corporation willing to fund their way through college.

Already they've made numerous television and radio appearances and have been featured in articles in BrandEra.com and The Globe and Mail.

After posting a website last summer in which the two promised to "eat your pizza and wear your clothes" and "eat your cere-

**"If we go on television and your name is on our clothes, that's good exposure."**

al even if we're not hungry," all in exchange for tuition at "extremely expensive U," things began to take off. And when corporations began to take interest, Chris and Luke shot into the public eye.

Now they hope extremely expensive U will be either the University of Southern California or New York University where they want to study entertainment media and marketing. And if they don't get admis-

sion to the same university, they will attend schools that are near one another.

The two say they recently landed a contract with Hotjobs.com, a recruiting company. Ammond says they are in negotiation with several other companies as well.

A Hotjobs representative denied that they have hired Chris and Luke, though the company is considering the prospect. The pair would probably work as part of the

Chris and Luke have said that they will be at least a little discriminating when it comes to deciding for whom they will advertise. They will not sponsor tobacco, alcohol, or sex-related products, though Ammond said a few companies in the business of selling some of those products have inquired. Chris also expects that all of their contracts will include a morality clause which will jeopardize their jobs if they are caught in any incidents deemed unfavorable to a corporate image. He doesn't anticipate abstaining from sex, however. "It is college," laughs Chris.

Still, he does acknowledge that corporate obligations will make his life slightly more constrictive. "The corporation will be like our parents." And because these parents also have an image to protect, Chris explains, he and Luke should steer clear of campus politics that might offend one of



involved in a well-paying, extracurricular activity that will help defray the cost of college which, according to Chris, "is tough for everyone."

Ammond, who is helping Chris and Luke for free, is also volunteering for New Jersey college freshman Brett Banfe, 19, who is on a corporate-sponsored quest to not speak for one year.

Banfe spent the month before he kicked-off his vow of silence doing radio and television spots. Since then, he has made several television appearances.

Motorola gave Banfe several pagers so he could communicate with his closest friends and family. The website Darefordollars.com, which recently paid \$3,000

he completes the year. Banfe pledges he will donate the sum to charity.

Though not an official spokesperson, the considerable publicity he has received benefits the corporations sponsoring him.

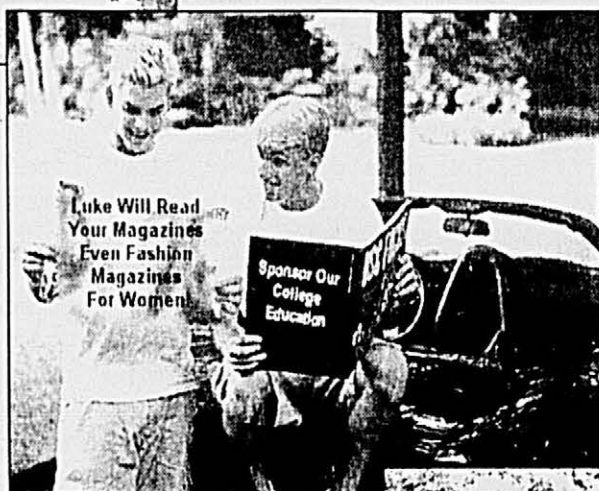
The most famous Freshman at New Jersey's William Patterson University,

**"The corporation will be like our parents."**

Banfe is remaining silent "to inspire people to come to my website and inspire people to join me, inspire people to become better listeners.... You can go through your day and it's the same things over and over. You don't take the time to stop, observe the world and listen," his website reads.

Despite her clients' success, Ammond is skeptical as to the future of corporate-sponsored college students. "In Chris and Luke's case, they came up with this concept. They were the first, which is why there is media attention," she says.

As for Chris, he sees on-campus sponsorships as likely to grow, though he doubts future spokespersons will get the same attention. "Pepsi could have spokespersons on 50 or 75 campuses," he says. "We hope people are going to follow us."



company's new push for college-aged clientele.

Chris says he and Luke hope to be made "corporate spokespersons" for Hotjobs.com and other corporations. They anticipate that the job will include traveling around the United States giving presentations to students, and starting what they call a "grassroots marketing campaign" on their own university's campus.

And while they won't disclose the financial details of their negotiations, they recently told BrandEra.com that their minimum fee is \$15,000(US) for which they will "wear your logos on our shirts and caps. If we go on television and your name is on our clothes, that's good exposure."

Chris, whose favorite brands include Pepsi, The Gap, and AT&T, is also excited about potential perks. "If a corporation sends us to the Super Bowl, they'll have to pay for our flights and our tickets."

their sponsors.

But Chris says he doesn't really mind that his sponsors will be watching his every move and listening to his every word. "I'll be getting a head start on my career, so I'm not really worried," he says.

What's more, Chris' and Luke's idea is not one born of dire financial necessity. They both enjoy financially comfortable lives in an affluent Pennsylvania suburb. The plan is to get

to an engaged couple to search for wedding rings in a tub of horse manure, is giving Banfe \$20 for each day he goes without speaking, plus a \$5,000 bonus if

future spokespersons will get the same attention. "Pepsi could have spokespersons on 50 or 75 campuses," he says. "We hope people are going to follow us."





# FTAA Protesters Hoping for Exam Deferrals

*Pressure mounts for McGill to accommodate students who miss finals to attend demonstrations*

BY MATT DAVISON  
News Reporter

Campus activists heading to Quebec City for April's planned protests against hemispheric trade talks say they should not be penalized for missing final exams while they take part in demonstrations.

The activists hope to convince McGill's Senate to pass a motion similar to the one voted on at Concordia on Friday, Jan. 19. The Concordia motion called on professors to make efforts to accommodate students whose exam schedules coincide with a planned meeting of countries discussing the proposed Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA). Quebec City will host the summit that is also expected to draw throngs of anti-globalization protesters from April 20-22.

On Thursday, SSMU Council overwhelmingly supported a motion to ask McGill's Senate to make some sort of accommodations for students who will miss final exams in order to attend the Quebec City protests.

"I'm hoping that the administration will let students defer exams during the protests," said Jeff Wilson, a U2 Philosophy and International Development student who spoke at Thursday's SSMU meeting.

Wilson said that many of the initiatives that will be discussed by FTAA member countries pose threats to accessible public education and that universities should promote students' participation in the planned protests.

"Free trade's mechanisms on investment have an impact on education. It's an issue that affects students by promoting privatization, raising tuition, and cutting public funding," he said. "Universities should absolutely encourage students to partici-

pate in these sorts of demonstrations."

Meanwhile, at Concordia, student and faculty leaders welcomed the news last week that campus activists would be able to take part in April's demonstrations without fear of academic penalty.

"We encourage students to have a public conscience," said Concordia's Arts and Science Dean Martin Singer. "It's commendable for our students to voice their opinion."

Concordia's Senate voted unanimously in support of a motion, which also set out that students must make arrangements with professors by March 31. Senators hope that provision will limit abuse by those who want to miss exams, but are not planning on joining the protests.

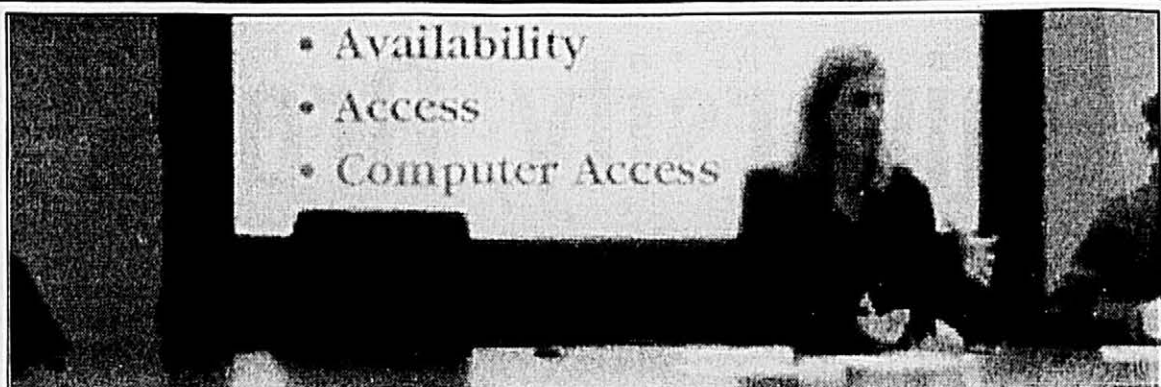
The three-day summit will bring government and finance officials from across North and South America to the province's capital to discuss the potential for a free trade agreement that would incorporate over 800-million people and \$11-trillion in GDP.

The protests planned to greet the event are expected to be on a similar scale to the demonstrations that dominated World Trade Organization talks in Seattle thirteen months ago, and Windsor's summer meeting of the Organization of American States. McGill has been a hotbed for activist groups like FTAA Alert who are organizing protests for Quebec City.

At a Senate meeting in two weeks, McGill's student senators are expected to bring forward the SSMU-backed motion to accommodate students who will be attending demonstrations.

"I think that if we got an arrangement at McGill like the one at Concordia, it would be great," Wilson said.

— with files from Steve Faguy, *The Link*



## McGill's Standards are Falling, Students Say

BY KC CHIANG  
News Reporter

Overcrowded classrooms, professors' declining attention to teaching, and the inadequacy of campus library and computer facilities are threatening quality education at McGill, students said at a forum last Wednesday.

Organized by SSMU's University Affairs Committee, the event entitled "Voicing Our Vision" marked an invitation for students to express their concerns with what's going on at McGill.

Clara Péron, SSMU's VP University Affairs and the event's organizer, told the few dozen students that descended on Leacock 232 that she hoped to put their concerns into a report that she will prepare in the coming weeks and submit to university administrators during McGill's End of the Millennium conference in March.

She began by addressing issues like faculty renewal that have forced administrators to look at McGill's future.

"Half of McGill's current faculty will retire soon. McGill will be hiring 100 new professors per year for the next ten years," she said. In order to ensure student input in issues like faculty renewal, Péron continued, students need to get involved in the planning process right away.

Several students said they were upset with the university's teaching methods. As McGill professors must balance the task of teaching courses while conducting research, it is often difficult for students to receive proper attention and assistance. Inadequate office hours and professors unwilling to devote enough class time to properly explain material illustrate the

growing rift between undergraduate students and their instructors, the students said.

"The quality of my education is being affected by professors speeding through information. A lot of students can't keep up. I should get the three hours of class I paid for," said U2 Arts student Maggie Preston.

Along with strained relations between students and professors, participants also noted the lack of training for TAs and their inability to assist students in explaining course material.

Concern with crowded classrooms dominated the next portion of the meeting, with a number of students expressing their disappointment that current facilities weren't enough to meet the demands created by growing enrolment.

"I think we are over-admitting students. This year we over-accepted 25 students in the Architecture faculty," stated U2 Architecture student Diana Anderson.

As McGill continues to increase student admittance, providing basic necessities, such as seats in classrooms become a serious problem, Péron said. But many students seemed unhappy with some of the solutions that Péron said administrators are considering. She spoke of tentative plans to cap class sizes and implement waiting lists.

"I just don't understand university policy on class sizes. I'm paying \$170 to sit on a floor. There are better things I can do with my money," said U1 Arts student Rahim Surani.

When discussion turned to the availability of library and computer facilities, most students said yet again that McGill is not currently making the grade.

"Why is it so hard to find a book? Why

do I also have to wait an hour to use a computer? Is the library planning to buy books published after 1970?" asked Michael Todd, a U3 English student.

Jonathan Bracewell, a U2 Arts student, also noted that what efforts have been made to improve facilities have not benefited many faculties.

"Not all libraries are the same. I find there is such a discrepancy between [the Arts faculty's] Redpath Library and the Law Library. I was upset during exams when a guard asked me to leave the Law Library because I wasn't a law student," said Bracewell.

The forum also addressed frequently neglected sections of the student body. Jennifer Bilec, President of the McGill International Student Network brought attention to the lack of financial support and general guidance for international students.

"For financial aid, I have students crying and complaining about finding bursaries. I don't understand why we can't find internships and jobs for international students who can only work on campus."

Other audience members noted the lack of academic and social advising for incoming McGill students. U0 student Lindsay Mendoza said, "We don't have freshman seminars for every student."

Following the forum, Péron said that even though the mid-afternoon timeslot had meant many students could not attend, she felt like a lot had been accomplished. "I think overall it was a success. I'm impressed with the amount and diversity of students who came out to speak. I found all the comments really useful in addressing all the issues," she said.

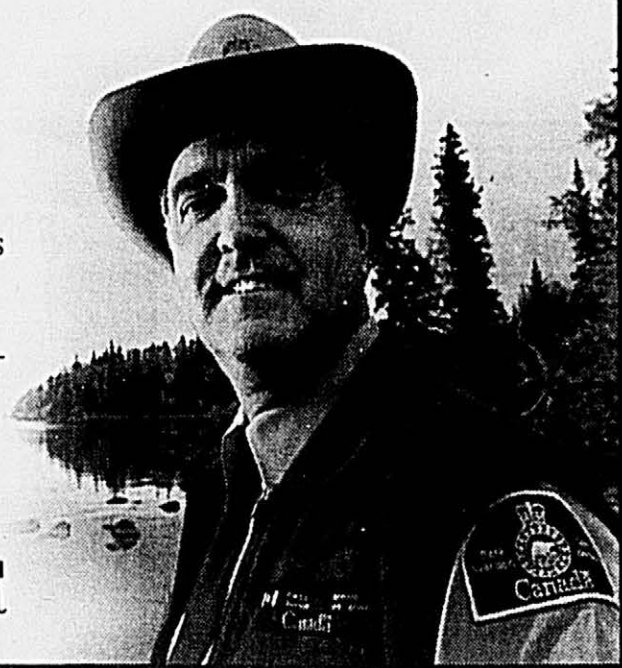
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Canada





# Cheap Student Transit a Thing of the Past

BY BRETT STORY  
News Reporter

Since a bureaucratic board's ruling halted Allo-Stop's Ontario operations last April, more than two dozen other ride-sharing and alternative transportation services have also been kicked off the province's roads — closures that have left many students and low-income travelers stranded.

A ride-arranging service that was long popular for McGill students traveling frequently to Toronto or Ottawa, Allo-Stop was the first in a series of low-cost transportation businesses to be shut down as a result of applications brought to the Ontario Highway Transport Board by the province's big bus companies. And since last spring, the board has found over thirty more services guilty of operating in contravention of Ontario's Public Vehicles Act and the Motor Vehicle Transport Act.

Both Claire Patenaude, founder of Allo-Stop, and Allen Majer, director of a web-based ride connection service that was also shut down, say they're angry with the rulings. They say that their businesses were mistakenly categorized alongside a number of for-profit, illegal van transportation services that the Board was targeting.

"They were buses with no licenses, but in our case, we were dealing with real people, and the trips were their own," said Patenaude.

Majer also feels his service was unjustly punished. He agrees that illegal bus services are dangerous and should be shut down, but insists some ride-sharing services like his are legitimate. "I'm not sure if the board can tell the difference," he said.

Majer's company, EcoRide.com, has been operating for the past three years, charging the minimal cost of \$6 when drivers and passengers made successful connections on its website. Majer decided to forgo this user charge altogether, however, when the complaint against EcoRide was first lodged last spring — a strategy that he hoped might mean the end of his legal problems.

When Majer couldn't afford the legal costs to fight the case, however, EcoRide was shut down.

He said he is suspicious of the Transport Board hearing which were initiated by Trentway-Wagar and Greyhound, the province's biggest bus companies, who saw competition in services like EcoRide and Allo-Stop.

"The bus companies' concerns have nothing to do with safety, they have to do

with competition," he said. "They wanted to shut us out of business."

And owners of ride services aren't the only ones that should be angry, according to Majer. He said that ride services like his represent an alternative to the rising ticket prices for bus, train, and plane travellers.

"What you want is a system that's a combination of safe, affordable, and convenient," he said.

Explaining the demand for such services, he points to the rapid rise in popularity of EcoRide when it began three years ago. In just the last year and half, he says, he had picked up 5000 new users.

"The price of taking the bus is definitely too high for a lot of people," agreed Patenaude.

But Jim Develin, Trentway-Wagar's president, disagrees. "Buses are by and large the cheapest form of transport available," he said.

He maintains that ride-sharing services are cheaper only because they don't have to pay the driver costs and safety and regulation costs that lawful operations incur. "They're only cheaper because they're beating the system," he said.

The safety of ride services became a source of public concern last summer



when an illegal, for-profit van rolled over on Highway 401, killing five passengers.

Nonetheless, for Develin, the real issue seems to be not safety, but fair competition. "If people are going to operate a business in this country, they need to operate under the same rules as everybody else," he said. And because alternative transportation service providers didn't have to abide by industry regulations, they had a huge cost advantage that "made it impossible to compete on an equal basis," Develin added.

But Majer and Patenaude don't think there is anything fair about how the Transport Board operates. Both said that they cannot afford to challenge the board's rulings. "They have the financial muscle," says Majer, who incurred almost \$10,000 in legal costs.

Majer says he wouldn't be surprised if the board, a two-person, appointed body, was highly open to influence from the bus companies.

"It's a lack of democracy" says Patenaude. "It seems in Canada we are so obsessed with pleasing big corporations that we are willing to break social contracts to do that."

Nonetheless, she says she has no plans to appeal the board's ruling. Instead, she says, Allo-Stop will focus on business in Quebec where it has long had the full support of the provincial government — support the government showed recently when its environment ministry awarded Allo-Stop a \$15,000 grant to support Patenaude's project of inner-city transport for workers.

## International Inaction Costing Lives: Stephen Lewis

BY JULIAN CASAL  
News Reporter

The immense loss of human life in sub-Saharan Africa due to disease, mass genocide and civil conflict has been witnessed by the international community but, according to Stephen Lewis, perilously little has been done by leading countries to address the problems.

Lewis pulled no punches on Thursday night, speaking to an audience of over a thousand university students at the opening ceremonies of the McGill Model United Nations Conference in downtown Montreal. A former Canadian Ambassador to the UN and a central figure in the investigation of the Rwandan genocide, he fears that a blind eye has increasingly been turned to the plight of millions on the African continent. He sees this as a disturbing trend and wants to draw attention to it, even if this means shocking key international players into action.

As the number of AIDS casualties continues to grow, Lewis has observed an "extraordi-

nary political irresponsibility amongst the leadership [of powerful countries] and a refusal to deal directly with the issue, a refusal to deal directly with the stigma."

Lewis reminded his audience that in the year 2000 alone there were 5.3 million new HIV infections, almost 4 million of which were in sub-Saharan Africa. 3 million people died of the disease last year, pushing the total number of lives claimed by AIDS to over 21 million. More than 80 per cent of these deaths have been in sub-Saharan Africa. "There are 36 million people now carrying the virus... think of what this means."

Drawing on his extensive experience in Africa, where he has worked on various UN projects since 1986, Lewis thinks that a new approach must be taken for dealing with the ravages of AIDS. "For the longest time we talked about prevention and sometimes we talked about care but now the people living with AIDS are saying 'What about treatment?'"

Here Lewis highlighted what he views as a major stumbling block for international organisations. They are often so global in

perspective that, according to him, they can lose sight of the needs of people at the local level afflicted by disease and poverty.

Turning his focus to large pharmaceutical companies, Lewis called their recent negotiations with the UN to lower the cost of drugs "an extraordinary manipulation of the UN system," arguing that not nearly enough had been done.

"We never get to low-cost or no-cost drugs across the board for these [African] countries and for whatever reasons the Western governments have not come up with the financial wherewithal to support the purchase of low cost drugs in sufficient supplies that would save or prolong millions of lives."

Lewis also touched on the findings from his investigation into the Rwandan genocide of 1994 that took the lives of 800,000 people in only four months. As a member of a panel appointed by the Organization of African Unity, Lewis and his co-workers began looking into the Rwandan catastrophe in 1998 and presented their conclusions this summer. Echoing the panel's final report, he stated that international intervention could certainly

have reduced the genocide, but the "United Nations Security Council willfully deliberated, tied into knots by two permanent members so that the troops could never be dispatched and the people were slaughtered." The two permanent members he made reference to were France and the United States.

He emphatically believes that the international community, by deciding to remain uninvolved, shares a large part of the blame for the flagrant human rights violations that have occurred in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and East Timor. Of the genocide in Rwanda, Lewis concluded that there seemed to be "some kind of corrupt conspiracy which was perfectly prepared to abandon all of these people to their fate without ever intervening."

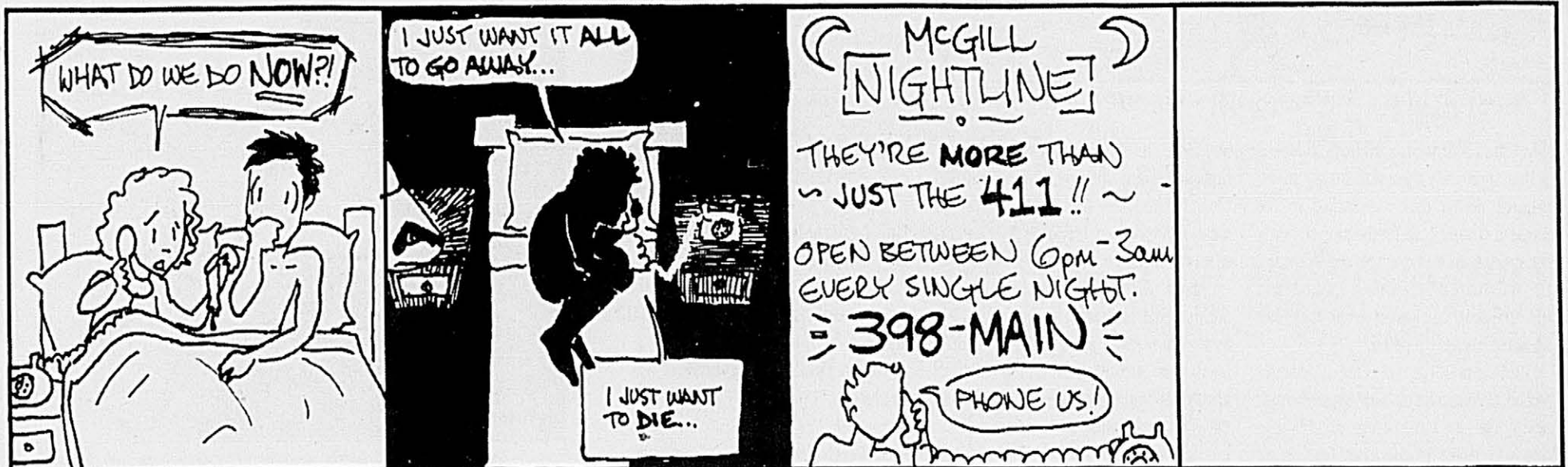
Largely due to the Rwandan panel's final report, the United Nations has recently placed a renewed emphasis on debating when intervention becomes imperative in the face of mass genocide. The issue is particularly sensitive since foreign intervention necessarily involves an infringement on national sovereignty.

Later in his speech, Lewis discussed what

he termed the "phenomenon of globalisation," saying that innocent people are being left behind in the wake of all the hype. "There is such a manic triumphalism about free market economies, about the erosion of the public sector, and about the liberalisation of trade and yet this globalisation that we thought was overcoming poverty may be doing great things for multi-national corporations, but it's not doing great things for the disinherited of this world and not doing great things for the environment."

He is convinced that the international community is committing an "astonishing act of international delinquency" by losing sight of the lives of ordinary citizens.

Stephen Lewis was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies of the McGill Model United Nations 2001 conference hosted by the United Nations Student Association of McGill. Throughout the weekend, over a thousand delegates from across North America met in simulations of committees such as the UN Commission on Human Rights and the Security Council.





# Access Denied

*An activist for the mobility-impaired thinks McGill and the community have a long way to go in their mission to make campus accessible*

BY ROBERTO ROCHA  
News Reporter

Nora Bednarski has never been inside the Redpath Museum. She doesn't browse through the architecture library stacks and she never eats in the McConnell cafeteria. That's because Bednarski is one of about two dozen McGill students with mobility impairments who rely on wheelchairs or crutches to transport themselves. What troubles her even more than McGill's mediocre accessibility is that nothing is done about it until she speaks out.

Many obstacles confronted Nora when she came to McGill in 1995 to be a law student. As if it weren't enough that the law faculty's Chancellor Day Hall building was on a steep hill, there was no ramp to the main entrance while the restroom stalls were too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair, and had no handlebars.

"After some letter-writing and a lot of campaigning they were able to accommodate students with disabilities, especially those in wheelchairs," she recalls. Following lengthy consultation, Nora's concerns with the building were eventually addressed. And when construction began on the law faculty's new library a few years ago, designers worked extra hard to make sure that the new facility was accessible.

"When students with disabilities raise the issues and make sure that the administration is taking their needs into account, things get done," she says. "But the problem is, when we're not there as a constant watchdog reminding people, problems occur."

She also points to the recent construction of a new path from the Roddick Gates to the Burnside terrace. "There was a difference in elevation of about three feet. No ramp, only stairs," remembers Bednarski.

in McGill's Office for Students with Disabilities and a wheelchair user himself, "McGill has come along way to improving accessibility for students with mobility disabilities," Louis says that a "fair number" of McGill buildings are currently accessible.

And installing ramps isn't all that McGill has done to make McGill more accessible. In addition to services offered through the OSD, there exists a Senate committee on students with disabilities, and design regulations for accessibility - the Barrier-free Standard - that are even stricter than national building codes, Louis says.

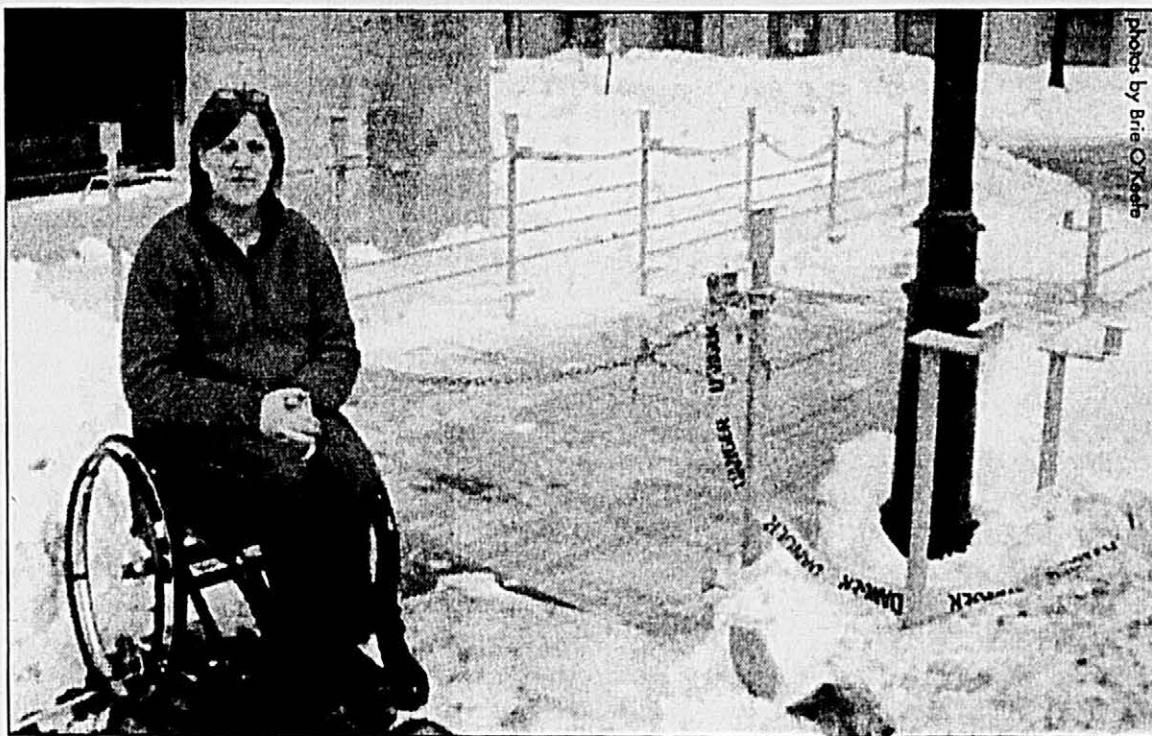
## A HELLISH LABYRINTH

But even an accessible campus is not necessarily a convenient one for Bednarski. She describes the new Brown student services building as a hellish labyrinth for anyone in a wheelchair. To get to the Health Services offices, she says, she must take a total of three different elevators.

"I wheel in at McTavish, take an elevator, wheel down a hallway, take a second elevator, wheel through Health Services which is this maze of doors and corridors, then there's a little lift that takes me up to reception. It's just bad designing," she says.

But Chuck Adler, director of the University Planning Office, contends that that's an unavoidable consequence of having a university built on a mountain. The elevation gradient on McTavish, he explains, resulted in the Brown building's "half-floors." Nonetheless, he says, the building is "one-hundred per cent accessible."

Bednarski thinks, however, that in spite of the many services provided by McGill, not much seems to be getting done. "There are people who know what the regulations are, those who want things to be accessible,



Nora Bednarski says she has complaints about accessibility at McGill

the only way to the elevators is up a flight of stairs. Robert Sim, University Affairs Coordinator for the Post-Graduate Students Society recounts that McGill's solution was to provide wheelchair users with special ID cards that would allow them to use the corporate entrance with elevators programmed to stop only on university floors. "We were concerned with the dignity of wheelchair users, of having abnormal access," said Sim. Nonetheless, nothing more was ever done, he says.

One other problem area for Bednarski is the Blackader Lauterman library stacks. "I have to get someone to go down and get the books for me," she explains. "But when doing research, I look not for one particular book, but for many books around the same area. I can't do that in certain aisles. This is clearly a barrier to learning. But that's why I'm here, and other students like me - because we want to learn."

## RETHINKING OUR DESIGN NORMS

But the fact that McGill is on a mountain and that its buildings are in lamentable disrepair is only part of the problem. A Quebec law prohibits any changes to be made to the front of historical sites without consent of the Viger Commission, a heritage protection watchdog. Sure enough, many McGill buildings are considered historical, including the Redpath Museum which has no entrance ramps.

"As a person with a disability myself, I find it incredible that the preservation of buildings takes precedence over human rights," says Louis.

Indeed it seems like laying all the blame on the university is sidestepping the root of the issue. According to Bednarski, society as a whole needs to do away with the idea that large staircases convey structural eminence.

"Why not just have a nice entrance with a gradual slope?" she offers. "If you want it to be grandiose, you don't have to have stairs. We have to challenge our design norms. We

have to say there are different ways that we can communicate about a building with the public and still make it accessible, that there is a universal design approach that can include everyone," says Bednarski, who is now studying urban design.

McGill allots \$100,000 yearly for accessibility projects, according to the Office for University Planning. Ideas for the projects are put forth by Joan Wolforth, the OSD's Director, who collects a number of complaints from students like Nora every year. And for anyone wanting to know what makes these projects worthwhile, Bednarski likes to emphasize the importance of having a campus free of barriers.

"We have to think of the functioning of the McGill community as a whole and we want it to be inclusive, and we want anyone to be able to apply here knowing this is a barrier-free community. We shouldn't have to justify our expenditures by numbers of disabled students."

## AN UNANSWERED PLEA

Bednarski also thinks that campus accessibility problems may even lead many students with mobility impairments who are considering McGill, to go elsewhere. A Halifax native, she says she had some apprehensions about moving to Montreal. "Very often accessible routes are very obscure."

When you have to face obstacles every day, always having to write letters, and complain, I'm sure it would put some students off from coming to McGill." For students with mobility impairments choosing a university, it seems hard to ignore the great strides some other schools have made in the name of accessibility. Carleton University has tunnels connecting all of its buildings. York University and the University of British Columbia are notorious for their accessibility. Given the choice, Bednarski thinks many disabled students likely have to weigh accessibility when deciding whether to come to McGill. "That is not a criterion that should affect where you choose to study," she says.

Last December, she adds, she wrote a letter to McGill's Vice-Principal Administration and Finance Morty Yalovsky. The letter addressed six problem areas that need remedy. She is still waiting for a reply.

What makes her most upset is not so much that these problems need fixing, but that little is done about them until students like her speak out. At the end of the interview she smiles, and leaves a final resonant note of wisdom accrued from years of a solitary fight. "It's a responsibility for all of us to ensure that our society is accessible. It can't be the disabled people who are reminding everyone. If something doesn't look right, it's our duty to speak out."



Redpath Hall's steps: a daunting prospect for students with mobility impairments

What she finds most outrageous, however, is that apparently there was a ramp in the original design that was sacked in the name of cutting costs for the project. "Only because of student outrage and advocacy, the university realized their mistake and the inappropriateness of what they did. They just recently repaved."

But the university insists the situation for McGill students with mobility impairments is not as dire as it may seem. According to Nissim Louis, an Access Services Coordinator

and there are those who are making decisions on design," she says, "but somewhere along the line there seems to be a communication breakdown. It doesn't look like an efficient procedure."

About two years ago, McGill's Senate began to address what it agrees was inadequate accessibility in its building at 688 Sherbrooke. McGill's lease on the building allows it to make a separate entrance from the main doors, where students can get elevators to go to university-held floors. But



The Engineering Cafeteria: another inaccessible spot on campus



# Science Students Speak Out at Forum

*Students vent their grievances to administrators at faculty open meeting*

NATASHA JATEGAONKAR  
News Reporter

In a university as big as McGill, it's not often that students get a chance to air their concerns directly to the top brass. But science students had the opportunity to do just that at an open forum organized by the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) last Thursday and attended by three deans.

Present at the forum were Dean of Students Rosalie Jukier, Dean of Science Alan Shaver, and Associate Dean of Academic & Student Affairs Morton J. Mendelson. With SUS president Arif Chowdhury acting as moderator for the discussion, about 50 students showed up to make themselves heard.

For two hours, conversation darted back and forth as students and administrators alike discussed the positive and negative aspects of studying science at McGill.

Many of the students' grievances focused on the university's standards for teaching quality. Samira Rahmani, a U1 Biology student, brought up the topic when she referred to an incident in which a professor had begun a class by saying: "Let's get this over with."

"That's terrible," said Rahmani

emphatically. "[Professors] are doing pertinent research in their field. I understand that they want to get published, but we're the ones that are going to extend their work in twenty years... It's hard to love science when teachers don't convey that."

Roozbeh Matin, a U3 Anatomy & Cell Biology student, echoed this sentiment, saying he was "unsatisfied" with the quality of teaching he had received at McGill.

Dean Mendelson responded to these comments by stressing the importance of the course evaluations filled out by students during the last two weeks of class. "The evaluations are taken seriously," he said.

Dean Shaver agreed, elaborating on the McGill's policy for promotions. "In order to get promoted to full professor, the criteria is that you have an international research reputation and good teaching... You can't get tenure without having an excruciatingly detailed review of teaching evaluations." He acknowledged that if less attention was paid to research, the teaching at McGill probably would improve but qualified this, saying "if there was less research, you wouldn't want to be here."

Raisa Macleod, the president of the Earth and Planetary Science Students' Association, asked the panel to address the

difficulties faced by classes when professors are unable to speak English very well. "In a math class, we have enough trouble trying to understand the math, and on top of that, a lot of us can't understand what the prof is saying," she said.

In such a case, professors are encouraged to make use of the Centre for University Teaching and Learning (CUTL), which Dean Jukier called "a wonderful resource," explaining, "a dean can tell professors to go [to CUTL] to learn how to become better communicators and better teachers."

Several students also complained about having massive classes, saying that they were particularly intimidating in first year.

Dean Jukier said that they have started to respond to this problem by introducing first-year seminars, special classes led by professors for about 25 students. She did acknowledge, however, that such measures were really only "baby steps."

Although the deans were sympathetic to the complaints raised by the students, they pointed out that problems such as large classes, multiple-choice exams and poor building maintenance have only one major culprit and it is out of their hands: lack of funding.

"We have just come out of eight to ten



Jukier, Shaver, and Mendelson fielded students' questions at Thursday's forum

years of budget constraints," Dean Jukier said. Still, she spoke optimistically of a recent performance contract signed with the Quebec government, in which the province promised to reinvest in education. Jukier hopes that this will bring about a new period of "academic renewal."

At the end of the question period, all members of the panel expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the forum. Dean Mendelson encouraged the students to keep

the lines of dialogue open with the administration. "You have to help [the Faculty] understand the problems you are experiencing," he said.

SUS president Arif Chowdhury was also pleased with the forum, but indicated that he would have liked to see a better turnout. "The average student doesn't get a chance to communicate with the Faculty. It's partly my job to provide that, but it's the average student's job to take advantage of that."

## U of M Rez Students' Victory Contested

BY FREDERIC POISSON  
Journal l'Intérêt

The University of Montreal is appealing a ruling from Quebec's housing board that had made 79 residence students victorious in a class action lawsuit against the university.

Judge Jean Bisson ruled last month that the university treated 400 residents of a campus building unlawfully during a large renovation project last spring. The \$12-million renovation included tearing apart and rebuilding all the exterior concrete walls, as well as renovating all bedrooms.

On Jan. 18, the university appealed the judgement in a Montreal court house.

Jacques Gravel, an assistant Vice-Rector at the university, said he is dismayed by the judgement, which may cost up to \$400,000 in indemnities to students. Each affected resident would get \$750 in damages and interest, \$37 for judicial fees and a 50 per cent rent rebate for the months of May through September.

"Damages awarded by the trial judge will have to be compensated for by rent increases or a reduction in services. For us, this means an unfair burden for future tenants," Gravel told the Canadian University Press.

The spring renovations affected 1,100 students, but many of the 400 students in the West Tower received moving notices one week in advance and were forced to move during final exams.

"It would have been hard to imagine a scenario susceptible to create an even more messy situation," wrote Bisson in his Dec. 7 judgement. "Because of tight deadlines and exacting requirements, the university overlooked the rules of the Civil Code."

Bisson said the university acted in bad faith and lacked organization.

"We won on all the points. We're very happy," said Benoit Gregoire, President of the residence student association following Gravel's ruling.

Bisson said the ruling also set a precedent that residence students' rent is paying not only for their rooms but also corridors and commons spaces.

But says the university is contesting the ruling because it limits the university's authority over its own property.

Other managers of Quebec university residences would be alarmed by the consequences of the judgement, Gravel said.

"We offer a service and students are free to go elsewhere if they don't like it," Gravel said.

While the university hopes to appeal the housing board's decision, the university nonetheless recognizes that it could have done better.

"We recognize that there have been mistakes and that residents should be compensated for them. However, there has never been any bad faith, only a big project that was complicated to manage," Gravel said.

- With files from Frederic Tremblay



elections  
mcgill

## Call for Nominations

Starting February 1st, Elections McGill will be accepting nominations for the following positions:

### Student Society Executive

- ✦ President
- ✦ VP Clubs & Services
- ✦ VP Operations
- ✦ VP Communications & Events
- ✦ VP University Affairs
- ✦ VP Community & Government

### Senators

- ✦ Arts
- ✦ Dentistry
- ✦ Education
- ✦ Engineering
- ✦ Law
- ✦ Management
- ✦ Medicine
- ✦ Music
- ✦ Religious Studies
- ✦ Science

### Undergraduate Representatives to the Board of Governors (2)

### Financial Ethics Research Advisors (4)

### CKUT-FM Board of Directors (2)

Deadline for returning Nomination kits:  
**Friday, February 16th 2001 @ 5:00 p.m.**

Nomination kits are available online or can be picked up at:

**SSMU Main Office**  
**William and Mary Brown**  
**Student Services Building,**  
**3600 McTavish, Office 1200**

To contact Elections McGill:

**Call: 398-2109**

**eMail: elections@ssmu.mcgill.ca**

**Surf: www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/elections**

**MAKE  
YOUR MARK!**

## Call for Referendums

Students may initiate a referendum question for the Spring 2001 election period. Referendum kits are available online or at the SSMU Main Office. Deadline is Friday, February 9th 2001 @ 5:00 p.m.

### POLL CLERKS NEEDED

for March 2, 6, 7 and 8.

Apply online at [www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/elections](http://www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/elections). Pays up to \$9/hour.



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## letters



## MISOGYNY IN ENGINEERING

Women in the Engineering faculty are not having an easy time these days. They are discouraged from entering certain types of engineering and a McGill professor has even asked a female student, "Are you sure you want to get your hands dirty?" Despite the sexism experienced by many women in engineering, some engineering departments are comprised of nearly 50 percent female students and the numbers are growing. Unfortunately, the growing number of female students has not stopped the ignorance in Engineering about the capabilities of women.

This is why it is disturbing that the Plumber's Faucet, the satirical newspaper published by the Engineering Undergraduate Society, printed the articles they did at the end of the fall semester. A recent article entitled "Earth Girls are Easy" rated women in relation to their physical appearance, calling women "cheap ho's" and including statements like, "Strippers: ... you know what she looks like naked ... that's all that counts." This is clearly objectification and these misogynist statements do not belong in any McGill newspaper, even a satirical one. Moreover, this article was placed opposite the page dedicated to the fourteen women who were killed at the École Polytechnique on Dec. 6, 1989, undermining the extreme importance of this event. Do the Faucet's editors actually edit? In addition, did the Editors really believe that these sexist comments and racist comments like calling feces "little Huxtables" would not offend anyone?

It is equally reprehensible that members of the EUS executive wanted to sweep these issues under the rug and prohibit their president, Anjali Mishra, from publicly admonishing the Faucet. Efforts made by members of the EUS executive to silence Mishra further propagate the misogynist attitudes which pervade the Faculty of Engineering.

We fully support Anjali Mishra's actions and condemn any attempts to hide or ignore the disgusting articles in the Plumber's Faucet.

Erica Weinstein

Coordinator, the Women's Union

Peter Flegel

Black Students' Network

## THOMSON &amp; MCGILL: INTERNET PARTNERSHIP OR CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP?

Chris Robinson, coordinator of Universitas 21, is a Dr., not a Professor (McGill Weighing Deal with Thomson Corp., Jan. 22). Dr. Robinson is a former businessman, not a legendary academic, and is naturally motivated by economic, rather than educational, interests. This is the beginning of the end of universities as we know them. Mr Shapiro & Co. may resist this time, but the attraction of bundles of money will seduce their successors. Future generations will live in societies where education can simply be purchased off the shelf (or off the web) without ever experiencing the true values, experiences and education of traditional university life. We must wonder if this is really progress.

Charles Baker

U3 Political Science

## GETTING GOOD SERVICE IN MONTREAL

In your column about service I could detect only two real complaints: not refill-

ing a water glass (although since another complaint was about chlorinated water, I'm not sure why you want it refilled) and about service being slow. I think it is true that there is not a lot of pressure here for fast service. But I have found that if I politely explain that I would like to have a quick meal, etc., ask about what is fast, etc., then I am accommodated. I think here there are a lot of expectations that can be helped by a running conversation with the servers. These people are often quite interested in a bit of conversation, and this brings out much better service. As for the water, it tastes lousy all over the city. Our local neighbourhood restaurant in Dorval has actually installed a water-purifier, but, once again, you have to ask about it, as it takes longer to get water through that system, so the servers only respond to requests.

S. Czarnocki

Serving Staff

## SON OF THOM

I read with interest your recent articles on Thomson Corps. and Thomson House. I am looking forward to your upcoming look at Nobel Prize winning physicist J.J. Thomson, discoverer of the atom, and a look into those bumbling Tintin sidekicks Thomson and Thompson.

Please keep up the good work!

Robert Thomson

U2 History

## FUROR OVER DER FÜHRER

I read with great interest your account of the mysterious posters that popped up in the Faculty of Law (Controversial Posters Pop Up in Law Building, McGill Daily, January 22). As President of the Law Students Association, I was approached by several students who were both offended by the posters and wondered what they were all about. Upon studying the poster- and

discussing it with several students, we were completely baffled as to the meaning and/or point the poster's creator was trying to make. But the fact is, any poster which prominently features a picture of Adolf Hitler is, at a minimum, in extremely poor taste, and at a maximum, could constitute hate speech, which is a crime under Canadian law (see section 319 of the Criminal Code). As a result, I completely supported the decision by several other students to remove the posters immediately. The anonymous law student who put these posters up, apparently as a social experiment, is quoted as saying "it was interesting to see that there was such a rapid silencing of speech...and by the students as well." I must admit the reaction was rapid, but it was in no way related to silencing of speech. If law school has taught us anything, it's that we protect all the freedoms enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including freedom of speech. But freedom of speech is not absolute. As I've already mentioned, hate speech is a criminal offence. Further, libel or slander can be actionable in a court of law. We absolutely encourage freedom of speech in this faculty, and as future lawyers are in training to protect it. Pictures of Adolf Hitler with incomprehensible messages about human rights attached to them, however, are not the way to make a point about freedom of speech.

Allen Mendelsohn

President, Law Students' Association

## SPELLCHECK FAILS AGAIN

Re: J.Kelly Nestruck's "Eight Days Too Many"

A little quote....

"Say what you wanna say, just spell my name right."

- Sticky Fingaz (Onyx)

Andrew FARRAR

Untimely Ripped

## Faculty of Science Needs Innovation

## hyde park



BY SAMIRA RAHMANI

Innovation is the brilliant concept which guides universities and is the idea upon which any academic environment or place of thought is built upon. New ideas, new insights from old truths and a constant remodeling of the status quo – this is how we progress and get better.

Last week the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) organized an open forum for students to voice their opinions and concerns about the state of their science education here at McGill. Attendance was sparse but the people that came were ready to shoot off about all that was wrong with the faculty – crowded classes, lack of TAs, the decrepit state of the buildings/labs etc. etc. – nothing new

to the ears of the deans that were present.

The deans had an answer for everything – lack of funds. Lack of funds, lack of funds, lack of funds...blah blah blah. I knew that this was exactly what I was going to hear, from both the students and the administrators, when I walked into that auditorium. Deep in the back of my head I wished for something new.

When we expressed our thoughts (complaints, mostly) – they nodded their heads and told us they understood our plight as science students. I was mildly satisfied with the evening's proceedings until Dean Shaver said something that made me realize that the administrators absolutely don't get it.

His final remark to us was that we have to keep the feedback going – we must talk to professors, write letters and become an active part of making the faculty better. He told us to go to our faculty associations because, and here is the kicker – the administrators certainly won't be coming to us.

I wanted to scream.

Why did he insist that they wouldn't come to us? We're the ones who drag our asses to class every morning and we're the ones who spend hours understanding the concepts that

some of our professors failed to convey to us in their haste to get back to their labs.

There were some good ideas that were brought up on Thursday evening. One idea was to have undergraduates tutor courses. Aside from the obvious problems this would cause with the TA union, the Deans expressed some hesitance upon its proposal.

So don't hire undergraduates to tutor courses but at the very least build on the idea. A possible innovation is to have undergraduates working with TAs. We know what we don't understand, we know what needs to be clarified and we would have good insights on what would be beneficial to focus on during tutorials.

They think it's about money. It partly is; but it's also about realigning priorities and changing the approach. If we can't reduce a 600-person class then it is certainly feasible to improve the tutorials with the assistance and full participation of undergraduates. This would help students tremendously in understanding the full scope of their studies. No longer would the focus be to merely get through the material of a course. The focus, rather, would be put on conceptualizing what was taught and from

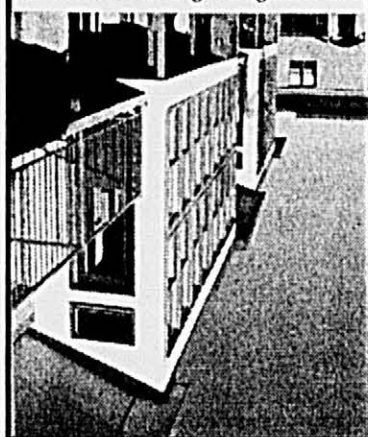
that I guarantee that students would be more satisfied with their education.

I don't pretend this small innovation would address many of the problems in the Faculty of Science. What I am trying to push through writing this is the renewal of this idea of innovation. I am convinced that the idea isn't so romantic that it can't be achieved.

## ERRATUM

In January 15th's McGill Daily, the article "McGill Residence Wins Eco-Award" was accidentally accompanied by the wrong photo.

Here is the real picture of the EcoResidence building. We regret the error.





THE ART DUMMY

# Michael Jackson and the Little Trooper

BY JOHN ORTVED  
The McGill Daily

I have yet to write a paper in university that I have not spent all night on. I have two problems: 1. I leave all my essays to the last minute, and 2. I refuse to do a slap-dash job. So I do it the night before, but I stay up all night. I worked like 16 hours straight on this thing and I have yet to sleep, so excuse me if this seems a little disjointed. I am only awake because of the copious amounts of Nescafé Instant French Vanilla I've consumed.

It was a bitch of an essay. One of those all night things where you begin to question why it is you're studying literature and not sitting on a ranch in Montana, rolling joints on the legs of supermodels. Actually, there are several reasons this isn't happening: one has to do with my concept of reality, the other having to do with several outstanding warrants in the state of Montana. The people of Bozeman never forget.

These night long affairs tend to make me a little off; the following are entries into my journal from the last 24 hours. I remember writing none of this:

6:00p.m. - Gosh, *Friends* was funny tonight, wow am I glad Chandler's so funny.

6:30p.m. - I wonder what whiskey and grape juice tastes like?

8:30p.m. - Gosh, *Friends* was funny tonight, wow am I glad Chandler's back on coke and not fat anymore.

8:45p.m. - Time to get down to work. Oh look, there's a new Keanu Reeves movie coming out. It's like he picks his scripts out of a hat. Remember *Chain Reaction*?

9:00p.m. - This glue smells nice.

11:00p.m. - Heehee.

12:00p.m. - This paper has yet to write itself. Better call some friends.

1:00a.m. - Friends no longer appreciate the "Public display of my ignorance."

1:07a.m. - (rip in paper by shrapnel from broken plates)

1:15a.m. - Goodnight Officer.

2:00a.m. - Maybe it will help me understand if I sleep on this bed for a while.

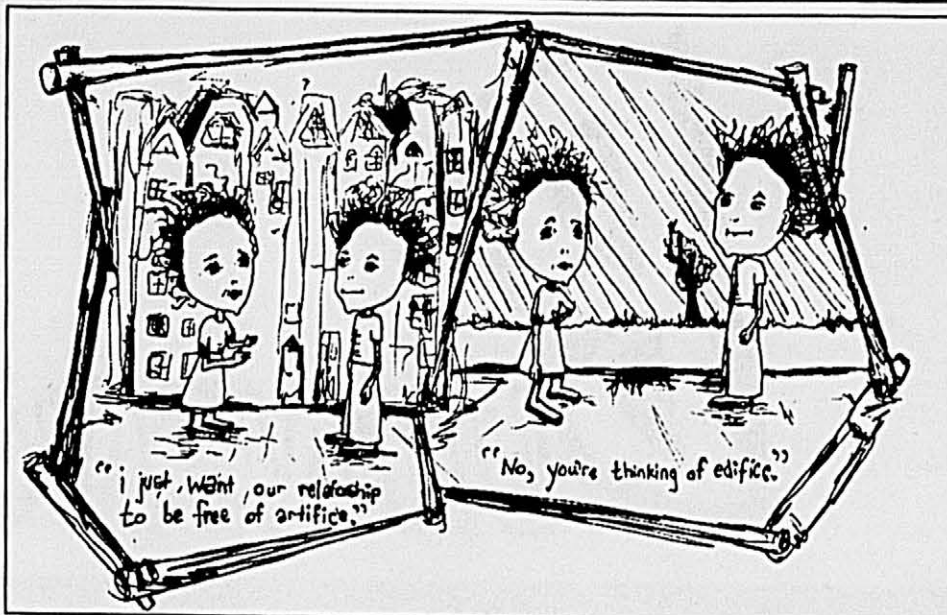
10a.m. - Hello repair man. You're here to fix the internet, well why don't we just fix you up a nice warm Nescafé Instant French Vanilla, then let's talk about Romania and Bartok's Dances of Transylvania.

3:00p.m. - Done. Ha Ha, silly English, I have bested you again my worthy foe. Now let us sit in the sun and enjoy each other's warm embrace.

Just to keep you updated, it's all coming down real quick. Child pedophiles will continue to be prosecuted in Canada and Michael Jackson is slowly gripping the world in his mighty death grip. Many of the singers in the boy bands consider him their #1 Influence. Think about that, these guys are more popular than The Beatles ever were and they control a whole generation of teens and pre-teens. I am personally affected by this demographic because they are one of few who see guys in cowboy hats as potentially cool and not just sociopathic.

I got the essay done and I turned it in on time. Hooray for me and all kinds of eighties movies. I'm going to better organize myself better in the future so all this chaos will not be necessary. No, fuck that, the point I really want to make is much more self-serving: Even after I'm up all night writing an essay, I conserve enough writing energy to get this off by its deadline; I am such a little trooper.

PS -Thank you David Bowie for "Ziggy Stardust"; he was my ammunition last night.



SCRAPLS  
by Loopy Doodle

## Revisiting Roe v. Wade



"They underestimated me."  
- George W. Bush

Happy birthday to you.

Happy birthday to you.

Happy birthday Roe vs. Waaaade...

Happy birthday to you!

I've had some crappy birthdays in my lifetime. Being born only a few days after Christmas leaves one chronically fucked over in the presents department. But man Roe, you win.

Yup, Roe v. Wade, the US Supreme Court decision giving women the right to choose, turned 28 last Monday. To celebrate, on his first day in office, the new president wasted no time declaring what one feminist publication has already called, "Bush v. Women's Rights."

I'm sure, Roe, that it was hard enough last week to hear the words "US," "president," and "Bush," in the same sentence

again... let alone on your birthday. Need I even mention what was to follow news of the prez's announcement to restrict U.S. funding to international family planning groups that council women on and provide access to abortion, or seek to influence other countries' policies on reproductive rights.

As party favours, Bush has also outlined his plan to ban certain late-term abortions, resurrect a domestic gag rule that was thrown out by the Clinton Administration, and order a review of the FDA's recent approval of RU-486.

And the presents keep coming. That's right Roe, in charge of protecting clinic access and prosecuting bombers, you get John Ashcroft, otherwise known as that loser who was beaten by the dead guy for Senate in Missouri last November, up for Attorney-General.

For those of us who don't follow American politics, and I don't blame you, let's take a trip back to October, when I had a clipping tacked up on my bulletin board, that read: "In Missouri, Campaign Flourishes Despite Death of The Candidate." No, this was not a headline from The Onion, nor the title of some sick essay on postmodernism. Actually, it was in The New York Times. Better yet, the dead guy won. John Ashcroft lost.

Now let's see, what sorts of characteristics could make one less desirable than a dead guy? Well, Ashcroft has spoken out on a certain condition as "clearly a choice - choice that could be made (and unmade)"; now if he were only referring to the abortion debate, and not homosexuality, he could

have been a suitable present. But actually, he's proposed that getting rid of you, Roe, is "the most noble and worthy objective that we could have," further stating that: "If I had the opportunity to pass but a single law, I would fully recognize the constitutional right to life of every unborn child, and ban every abortion except for those medically necessary to save the life of the mother."

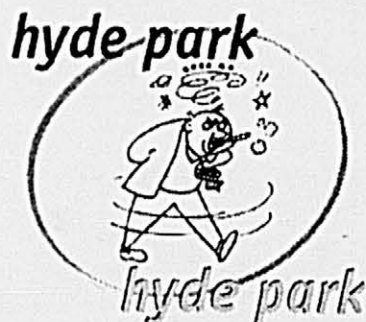
In short, for your birthday, you get a goon who wants to give fetuses more rights than he does gay people.

Ashcroft has also won awards from The American Life League, brought lawsuits against the National Organization for Women, fought against the ERA in his early years, and formally objected to birth control pills. Icing on the cake.

But at least Laura Bush, the new first lady, likes you Roe. Or that's how she came across on NBC's "Today" show, when she expressed her belief that the case should not be overturned. She never quite said she supported a woman's right to choose though, as she agrees with her husband (naturally) that the number of abortions performed each year should be reduced. But get this, she thinks this can be done through lessons on abstinence in schools. Yeah Laura, if we were in your place, we'd be all about abstinence too.

I'm not sure whether it is the whittling away of choice, the prospect of an anti-woman, anti-gay, anti-affirmative action holy man enforcing civil rights, or the very thought of being married to George W. Bush, but I'm not feeling very festive anymore. Hang in there Roe. Hope you see 30.

## This Just In - People Are Stupid



BY MATHIEU ALLAIRE

Faced with difficult modes of expression, idiots, as a general rule, cower in fear or protest loudly. This was just the reaction to the posters found in Chancellor Day Hall last week (see 'Controversial

Posters Pop Up in Law Building', January 22nd edition). Though not responsible for them, I must point out some misunderstandings that explain the response.

Damien Buttick, the author of the article, refers to the posters as "ambiguous [and] potentially offensive." I commend him for using this particular expression, especially for the word 'potentially.' The notice was obviously a call to reflection. Still, not everyone possesses the ability to think things over.

For if one takes enough time to ponder the meaning of the message, one is compelled to abandon vulgar beliefs about Hitler. We all have been taught that any judgement of the "Hitler is good" kind is just wrong, period. However, as a historical

figure that forced other nations to react to war atrocities, one must recognize that Hitler's influence was indeed rendered positive. This is the meaning of his identification by the poster's creator with the "True Author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Let us face the facts: without the Holocaust, the Declaration would not have been born. The belief that our culture is 'enlightened' and that the Declaration is just a natural result of this condition is wrong. An ideal's value depends on its cost.

As for the Nietzsche quote: he has often been singled out as a predecessor of National Socialism because of his anti-Semitic comments, and hence as a cause of World War II. Nonetheless his words here

suggest a connection between what the Allies condemned Hitler for and the current state of affairs in the Western world.

In our so-called 'free world' nowadays, rights are violated and sold: look at the measures taken by police forces for the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City this spring. Are we really better than Hitler, thinking that only nations with globalization-oriented economies deserve support? Has the businessman become a new Aryan ideal?

Finally, a word about Tanguay-Renaud's comments. He "felt that this was an inappropriate form for provoking intellectual debate." What do you propose as medium? A conference on Hitler's role as cause of the human rights movement will not affect people the same way a wide-

spread advertising campaign will.

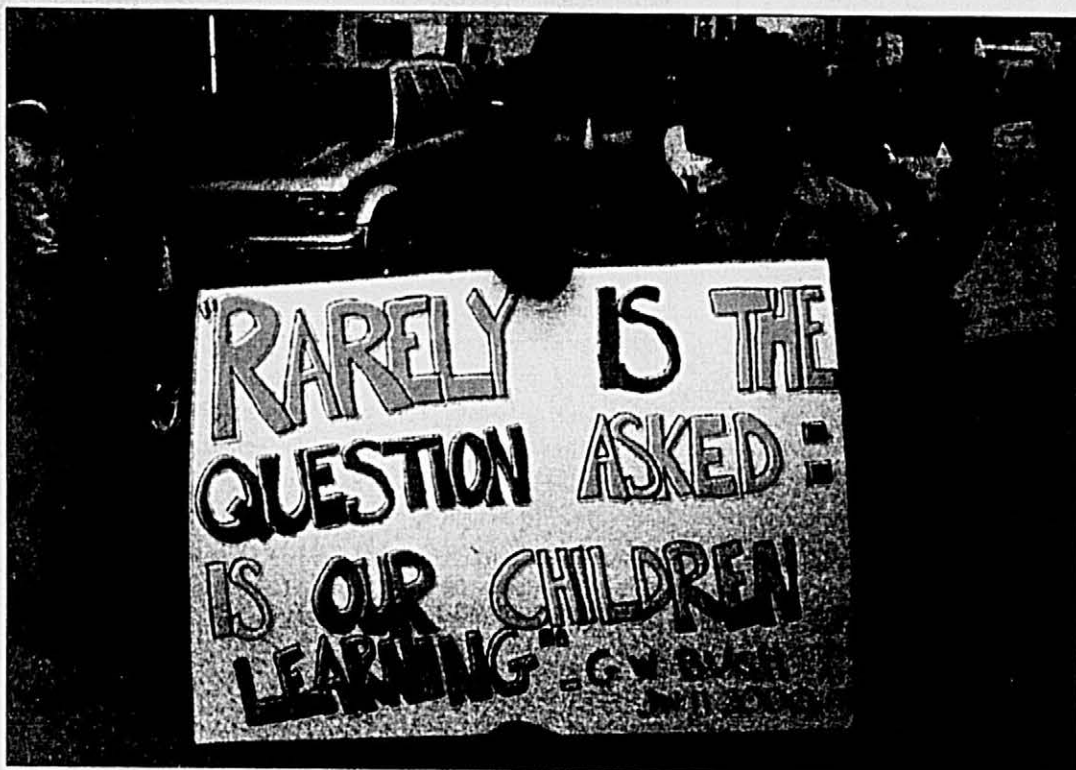
And I'm not sure we should consider this question an 'intellectual' one. Why restrain inquiries in this field to a scholarly elite smoking cigars in a cozy Arts building lounge? The point of this exercise is to shock and upset. Why shouldn't people who think they are knowledgeable be troubled and scandalized?

I believe the only mistake the author made was in withholding his identity from the public. One should not be afraid of speaking the truth. How can one be of bad taste, as Tanguay-Renaud claims, when one is right? Progress is made not only by good civil servants but also by criminals. Were it not for their challenges to the system, we could not evaluate our own ways of thinking adequately.



# BURNING BUSH

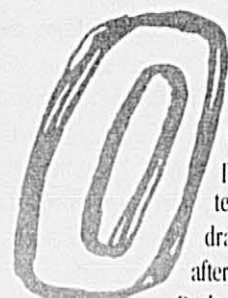
*Impersonating an alienated American voter on Inauguration Day*



all photos by Sean Carrie



BY SEAN CARRIE  
The McGill Daily



On January 20th, after a bitterly contested campaign with a contentious and drawn-out legal aftermath, George W. Bush was sworn in as

President of the United States.

Appalled by the presence of another Bush in the White House, I decided to impersonate an outraged American voter at a massive rally organized by a string of groups under the umbrella name of "Voter March." I called a friend at Georgetown, packed a bag, and weathered the thirteen

hour bus trip to the shores of the Potomac.

I arrived at the D.C. Greyhound terminal at 6 a.m. on Inauguration Day. Walking a few blocks south to Union Station, the capital's Beaux-Arts Amtrak depot, which was hung with rain-sodden red, white and blue bunting. D.C. suffers sub-zero temperatures for a only a score of days on the year, but judging by the freezing rain, Bush was set to receive a cold welcome to office.

#### AN INTELLECTUAL FEATHERWEIGHT

I'm not an American citizen, but I tend to keep a sharp eye on U.S. politics, for a number of reasons. For one, of course, U.S. foreign policy, economic well-being, and leadership have an overwhelming impact on the world at large.

Secondly, let's face it: American politics are way more interesting. If we have to submit to endless political mudslinging, why watch amateurs like Chretien and Day duke it out when we have easy access to Ted Kennedy and Orrin Hatch?

My third reason is much more self-interested. I live in Asia, and when the Republicans come out with their holier-than-thou pro-Taiwan declarations, the Middle Kingdom, just north of my hometown, begins to quake with rage. Enough said.

Domestically, Bush's staunch opposition to abortion, undying support for the death penalty, indifference to environmental issues, and support for massive tax cuts for the wealthy have lent him a reputation as an arch-conservative. These extreme policies have given a false

ring to most of his friendly overtures to more liberal Americans. His foreign policy is also disconcerting: the National Missile Defence system that he backs threatens to set U.S.-China relations back more than 20 years. It also worries many Canadians, who will likely be carried along for the ride, should the proposed system ever be put in place.

Bush's reputation as an intellectual featherweight and scant political experience has also led others to question his readiness for his nation's highest office. And many perceive the decision that cut short the Florida electoral recount as a partisan action by a politically loaded Supreme Court intended to hand Bush the White House. This has left many American liberals believing that the Bush presidency was stolen.

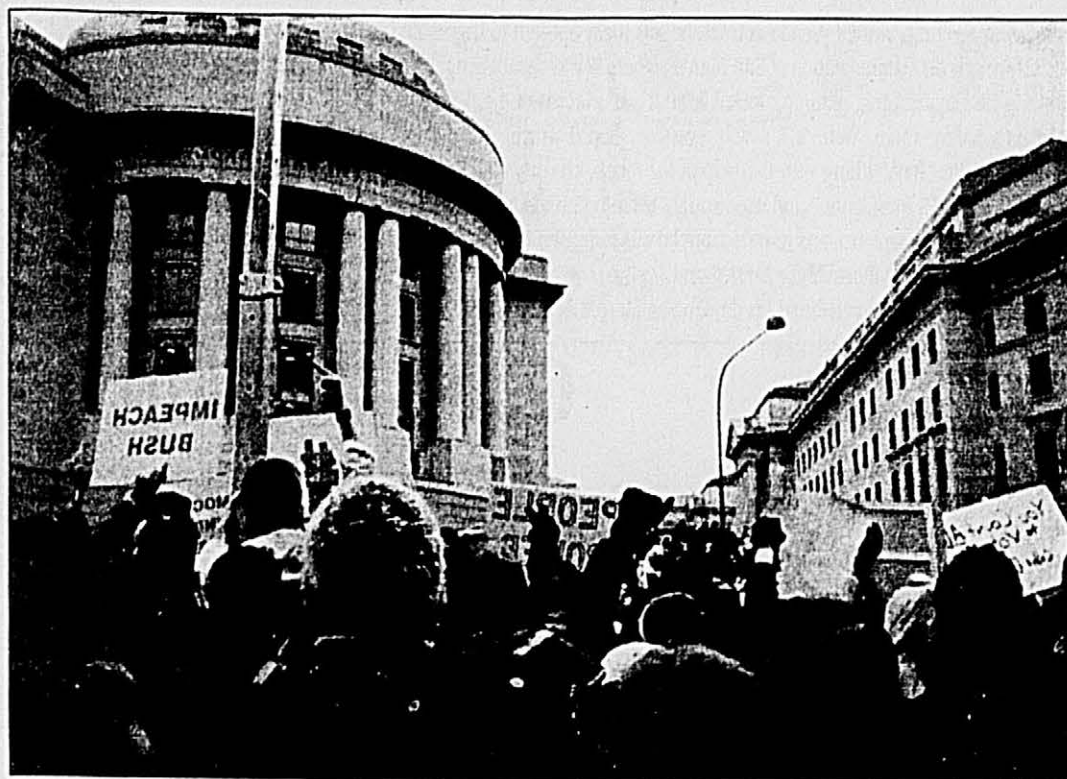
#### HIGH ON POWER

Protestors packed downtown Washington, D.C. on Bush's triumphant Inauguration Day. All were concerned by the apparent electoral theft, but many came to voice specific concerns about Bush's policies.

As the presidential motorcade drove up Pennsylvania Avenue at the head of the Inauguration Parade, the new president was greeted by more detractors than supporters.

Those who've been to Washington know that the city fairly reeks of power. To acclimate myself to that heady atmosphere, I walked toward the Capitol. But I didn't get far: a series of security checkpoints were already in operation. Dark-suited Feds and weary-looking D.C. police milled around the barricades in droves, so I decided to





head to my friend's house in Georgetown to drop off my stuff.

As the time for the march neared, I went back from Georgetown to DuPont Circle, where a very good-sized crowd had already gathered.

When I spoke later with Voter March organizer Louis Posner, he guessed that the crowd to have been "anywhere from 5,000 to 15,000 people." Since the protest was spread out along dozens of blocks of city streets, it was difficult to estimate how big it was. Posner said, however, that rough estimates of the total number of protesters in D.C. that day "with the [civil rights activist Rev. Al] Sharpton crowd at the US Supreme Court, our march, and a lot of other protests" ran up to 50,000 individuals.

The vast majority of people carried

placards whose messages ranged from the mundane - "[Bush Attorney General nominee John] Ashcroft is a pig" and "shame!" - to the sublime - "Clarence Thomas - the only black vote that counted," and "Rarely is the question asked: 'Is our children learning?'" The still more creative demonstrators came in papier maché costumes representing the five delinquent Supreme Court Justices, Bush's empty head, or the Alaskan caribou soon to be threatened by the Texan president's favorite concern: oil exploration. Also thrown into the mix were several protest dogs: they wore sheets of cardboard bearing slogans like "I lift my leg on Bushes." I was impressed with my fellow protesters' wit, and I quickly fell into line, embarrassed by my signlessness. (This was remedied when I proudly bought and

donned a "Bush Cheated" T-Shirt.)

The march proceeded smoothly down Massachusetts Avenue and south on 14th St. toward the Ellipse, a large park South of the White House where the protesters had been given permission to rally by police. The march's ranks progressively swelled as we neared the route of the Inaugural Parade.

But the entire march was soon held up by a line of riot police who had dug in at the corner of Franklin Square, three blocks north of the White House. The crowd milled around, yelled at police officers, and cheered and waved at the police helicopter circling above, but was otherwise well-behaved. Rumors circulated that the delay was due to an anarchist who had left the parade route and attacked an officer. Few were lending much credence to a story which had passed among ten thousand individuals, in a giant game of telephone.

Eventually, the march was allowed to turn around. We headed down a route apparently not assigned by the D.C. police's special events division. Nonetheless, our procession was allowed to continue unimpeded, and we eventually found ourselves at a checkpoint not far from the Inaugural Parade route on Pennsylvania Avenue. Basically, all that stood between the mass of protesters and a clear view of Bush's motorcade was a thinly manned barricade.

Quickly, the majority of us were pushed aside by a group clad in black, vinegar-soaked balaclavas. This group, who called themselves The Coalition of Anarchists for Bush, had soon expertly penetrated the blockade. This intrepid bunch supports Bush because "it just won't be as much fun to make Al Gore beg for mercy in a heated battle of class war," according to their flyers.

After collectively shrugging our shoulders and asking ourselves "Why not?", we streamed out and massed illegally along the Inaugural Parade route.

"We anticipated there may be some type of disturbance," Officer Johnson of the D.C. Metro Police told me, "but it wasn't anything that we thought we couldn't handle." He also claimed that he didn't know anything about any protesters overrunning a grandstand on Pennsylvania Avenue, and that "everyone gained access to the [Inaugural] Parade route through the controlled entry points."



#### GRAY CLOUDS AND RANTING PROTESTERS

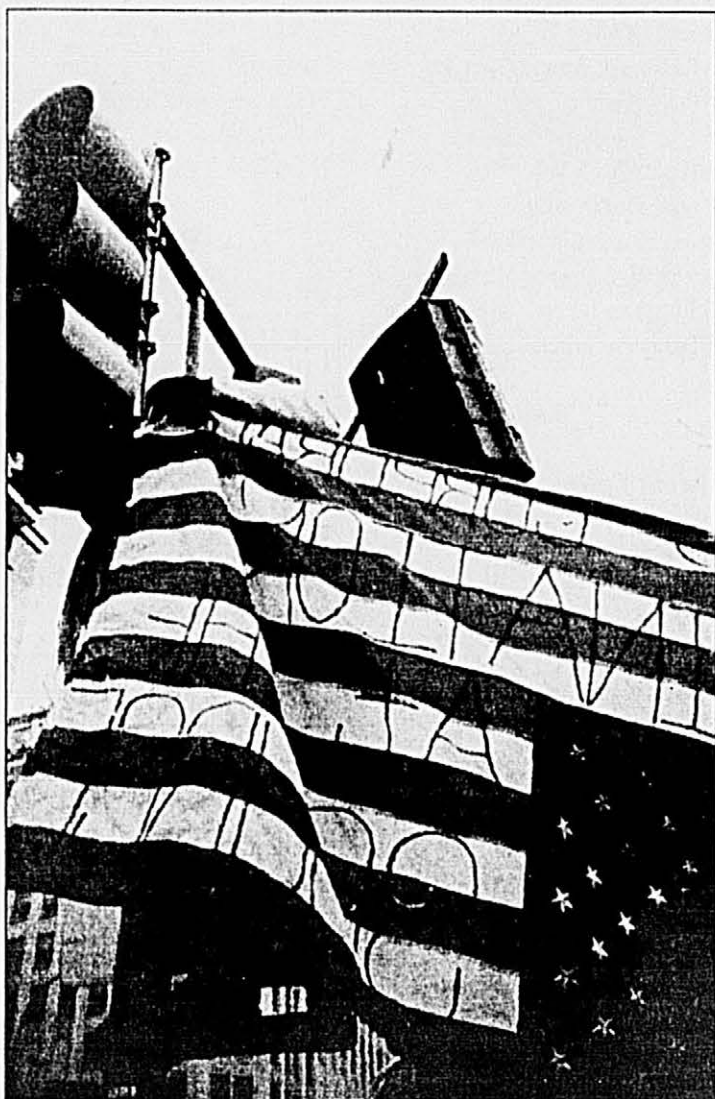
By one o'clock, while George W. Bush gave a "solemn pledge" to "work to build a single nation of justice and opportunity," as many as 50,000 people dispersed themselves along Pennsylvania Avenue. The crowd included those with interests as diverse as the abolition of the antiquated Electoral College system, the advancement of minorities' rights, the right to choose, proportional representation in Congress, statehood for the District of Columbia, guaranteed protection of the nation's parklands, and hundreds of others, all causes whose advancement the new president of the United States opposes.

"Bush stole the election," says Posner, "and he's going up there supposedly for his day of glory and he meets gray clouds and ranting, angry crowds of protesters. What we really have," he argues, scoffing at Bush's overtures of peace to his detractors, "is a disenfranchised public in the United States."

By the time Bush's motorcade made its way down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House, protesters outnumbered well-wishers by a huge margin. A swarm of marchers had overrun a grandstand meant for Republican stalwarts who had paid \$50 for the privilege of being seated for the parade. Thousands more huddled

together in the freezing drizzle, sheltered by placards in lieu of umbrellas. Ceaseless chanting of slogans such as "Hail to the Thief!", "Ill. legit, illegitimate," and "Bush won? I'm confused! I thought less votes means you lose!" drowned out parade announcers, who finally gave up their attempts to call the procession. Protesters got into heated, but largely civil, arguments with the few attendees who threw their support behind Bush. Loud booing accompanied every vehicle that passed by, and when the Presidential and Vice-Presidential limousines finally inched their way past Freedom Plaza, where we stood, young and old booed mercilessly. Bush, who had intended to walk most of the length of the parade, was confined to his egg-spattered limousine.

With the passing of the presidential motorcade, the crowd, soggy and cold but still in high spirits, drifted gradually apart. But the strength of the protesters' numbers surely sent some message to the new president. Clearly, these won't be the easiest four years in Dubya's life. "I think," said Posner, "that the important thing about the march is that there were people who made the effort to come to D.C. and protest the inauguration of President Bush. It's a clear reflection of what the" - ahem! - "American viewpoint is."





JANUARY 29, 2001

## FUN FACT ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

When W.E. was a young, untried pseudo-activist, he was lucky enough to ingratiate himself with the new dictator of the formerly democratic nation of San Marcos, where W was vacationing. Little did he know, the dictator was setting him up as a foil, planning to kill him in the uniform of the democratic rebels, and thereby prevent Canada's aiding them. Well, W.E.'s wily evasions, honed during his fieldwork in the Northwest Territories, as, officially, "Bait," along with the help of the rebels, saved his life. After the revolution had succeeded, he was dubbed "El Presidente" and was brought back to Canada to face trumped-up charges of treason and impersonation. His sentence was remitted, but he was forbidden to return to San Marcos on penalty of death. W.E. called the verdict "abortively pedantic" and "redundant," but soon got over it, finding his calling as Daily liege. Later he said he remembered his days in San Marcos as "very pithy. Yes, they had great... pith."



# Usurpation Nation

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK AND SALLY WARNER  
The McGill Daily

Back in 1999, The McGill Daily's team of layout designers and consultants decided upon a new and innovative logo for the front page of the paper. The striking Bembo font in an eddy of swooshing elliptical lines was picked after a long session of market research and focus groups. Scores of devoted readers gasped upon first viewing the new logo, whose designers included the internationally-renowned Cameron "Did-I-Tell-You-About-The-Time" Campbell and young ingenue Jon "Layout" Bricker.

Shortly after our new and improved logo appeared on the cover for the first time, industry spies began to usurp our ingenious new ideas, particularly what had come to be called in the trade, "The Daily Ring." With the old adage in mind that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, we present to you some of the recent examples of the rip-off of our award-winning design.

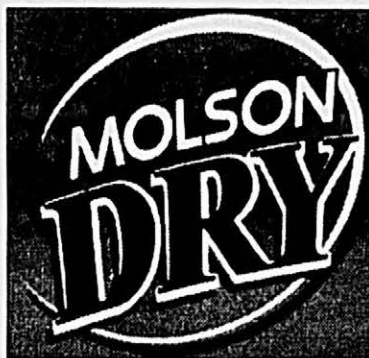
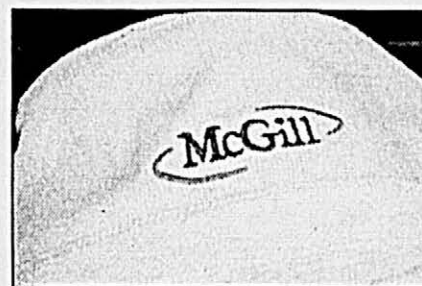
The Original Daily Ring

THE MCGILL DAILY

MCGILL NIGHTLINE

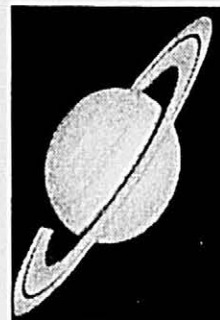
Another McGill Group  
Steals Our Thunder

Next, Chapter's/McGill  
Manifest *our* Destiny and  
Put it on a Hat



Huge Canadian Company  
Adopts Our Style

... Even the Cosmos  
Gets in on the  
Skullduggery



BY SLY JUNKET CLERK  
The McGill Daily

## WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

One of the biggest cliches in journalism is the sentence that goes like this: "While most people believe that bowling is a forgotten sport, the truth is that its popularity has been rising over the past decade." In The Daily's constant search for the truth, we searched the Internet for some recent examples of what the truth is.

• "The truth is that it is hard to sell a

newspaper subscription today." - Northern Ontario Business

• "The truth is that the vast majority of Canadians want to recognize and celebrate as a fundamental characteristic of their country the fact that one of Canada's 10 provinces, the second largest, has a francophone majority, in an overwhelmingly anglophone North America." - Canada Quarterly

• "...the truth is being naive about it will only fan the flames and breed more 'big city headlines.'" - Cindy Ballance, Editor, Okotoks Western Wheel

• "The truth is the only way we will be able to regain an ounce of what once was, is through the people - the ones who live here." - Cindy Ballance, same article, next paragraph

• "The truth is, it's harder than ever for working mothers to balance their priorities." - Chatelaine.com

• "The truth is, we just don't know about many of them." - Calgary Herald

• "The truth is that no matter what

Outhouse says next week or next month someone is going to feel ripped off." - Michael McPhee, Cape Breton Diary, CBC.ca

• "...the truth is I have never been more sure of who I am." - Allison Clark, The Peak, Simon Fraser University

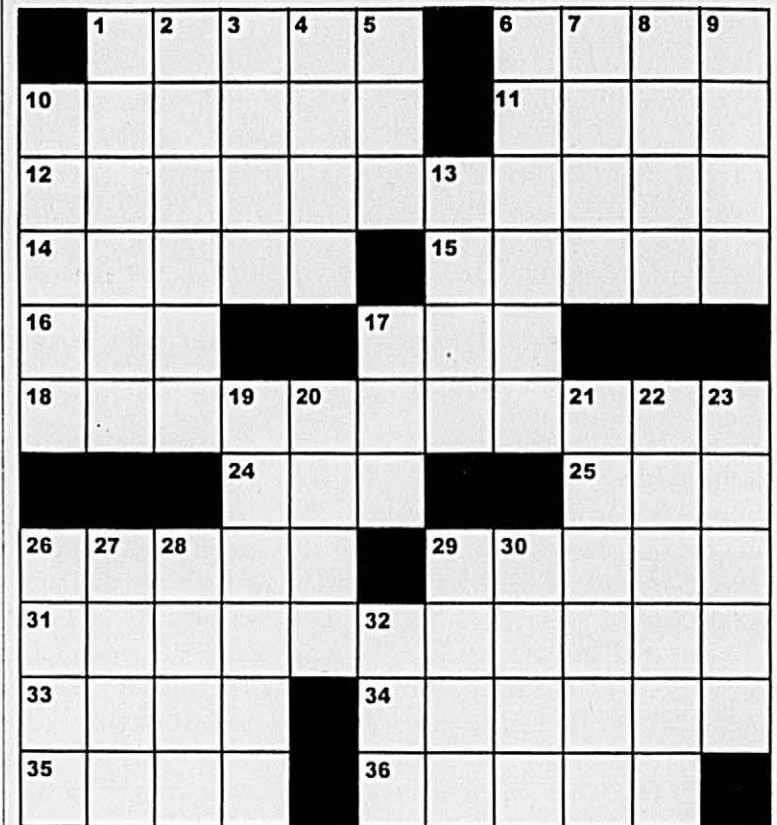
• "...the truth is that polling, when it's done badly or used improperly, is not a useful product of our media-rich society." - Howard Elliot, The Hamilton Spectator

• "The truth is that we have not (*sic*) a public health system." - Caesar Squitti, CBC.ca

• "The truth is, this young shooter grew up in a house full of criminals and even under the tightest gun control measures, criminals will continue to breed and raise children in environments which promote violence." - Keith A. Patton, The Gazette, University of Western Ontario

• "The truth is, I was surprised to find myself on the Hill at all, yet it was impossible to stay away." - Christina Spencer, The Ottawa Citizen

## Good Question

BY DEREK BOWMAN, *The Manitoban*

## ACROSS

- 1 Hockey rink
- 6 Newspaper column
- 10 The haves
- 11 Nick & \_\_\_\_\_ Charles
- 12 With 18 across, good question
- 14 Period of time
- 15 Plateaus
- 16 Directional suffix
- 17 T.V. personality Stewart
- 18 See 12 across
- 24 Guinness or Alexander Keith's
- 25 One to Pierre
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ nous (between us)
- 29 Flat bodied ray
- 31 Good question asker
- 33 Former Spice Girl Halliwell
- 34 Roger Bannister, and others
- 35 Tootie's teacher on "The Facts of Life"
- 36 Decorate a Christmas tree

## DOWN

- 1 Per unit of gasoline
- 2 On a horse
- 3 Norse ogre
- 4 Robin's home
- 5 Tree with a strong wood
- 6 Create
- 7 Objects of a foot massage

## 8 Writer Bombeck

9 Baseball star Willie

10 Ford flop

13 Cupid

17 Coffee

19 Ontario city

20 Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist

21 Orion, for one

22 Assistant physician

23 Department store, eg.

26 Rim

27 Yeam for

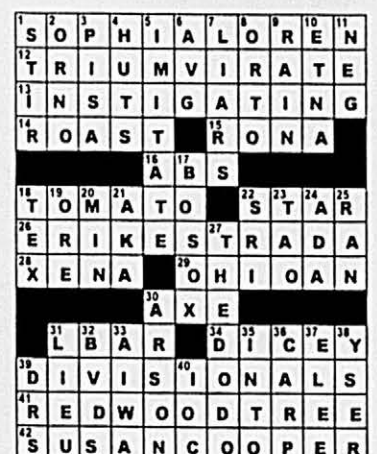
28 Mountain lake

29 Hired help at a mansion

30 Folk singer Guthrie

32 Award for Dixie Chicks, for short

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:



## THE MCGILL DAILY

is dropping writs like  
they're going out of style!

The Daily will be holding an election for the position of Culture Editor on Wednesday, February 7th at 5:30 in Chancellor Day Hall Room 620. To run, you must be a McGill student and Daily staff. Staff is anyone who has con-

tributed 6 stories, photos or production nights, or 12 hours of other newspaper-related duties, or any combination thereof. Offer not valid in states ending in Z or Q. Please consult your doctor before taking this position.



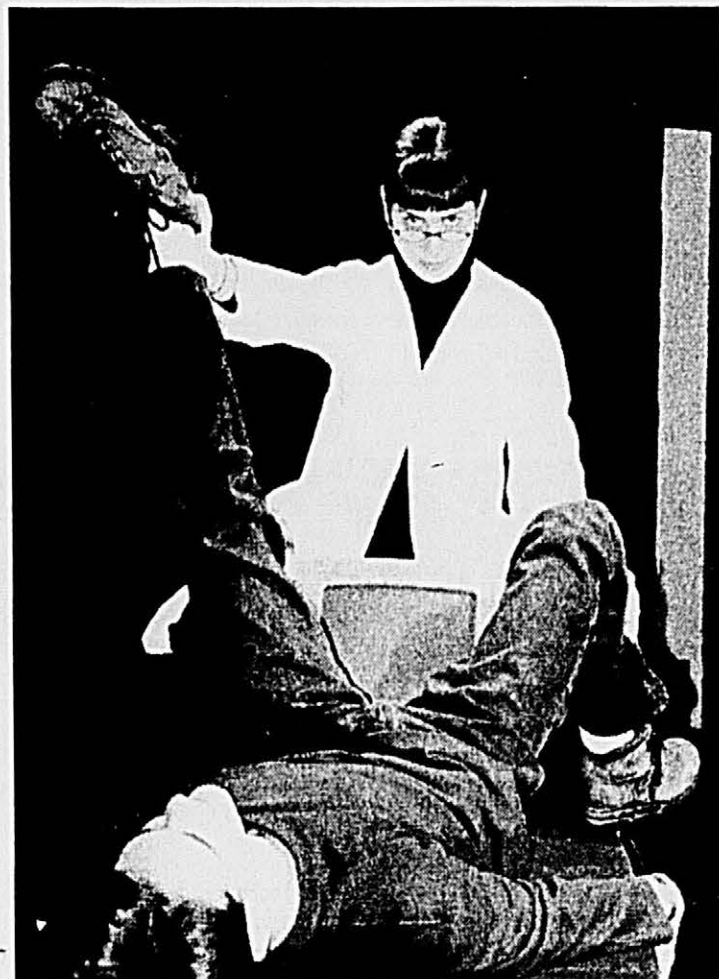
# One Man Band: Mighton Does All

*Philosopher, mathematician, playwright John Mighton knows no bounds*

BY SOPHIE JOHNSON  
The McGill Daily

It's an unlikely story. From philosopher to playwright to mathematician, and simultaneously melding the three in one. For those of us with no clear post-university path in sight, it's

masters degrees in philosophy, Mighton helped a friend move to New York, and stayed there for four years. It was the eighties, "everything was new - the art, the clothes, the music" (line from *Body and Soul*). Mighton lived the club scene, and was exposed to performance art when clubs allowed performance



Sarah Lazarevic

a ray of hope.

John Mighton is not initially an intimidating man. He listens to what you say, and he looks at you when he talks to you. After some introductory small talk, Mighton even seems a little shy. But once you start throwing around the more interesting questions, Mighton passionately makes his convictions known. Yet another lesson for the well-worn edict: never judge a book by its cover.

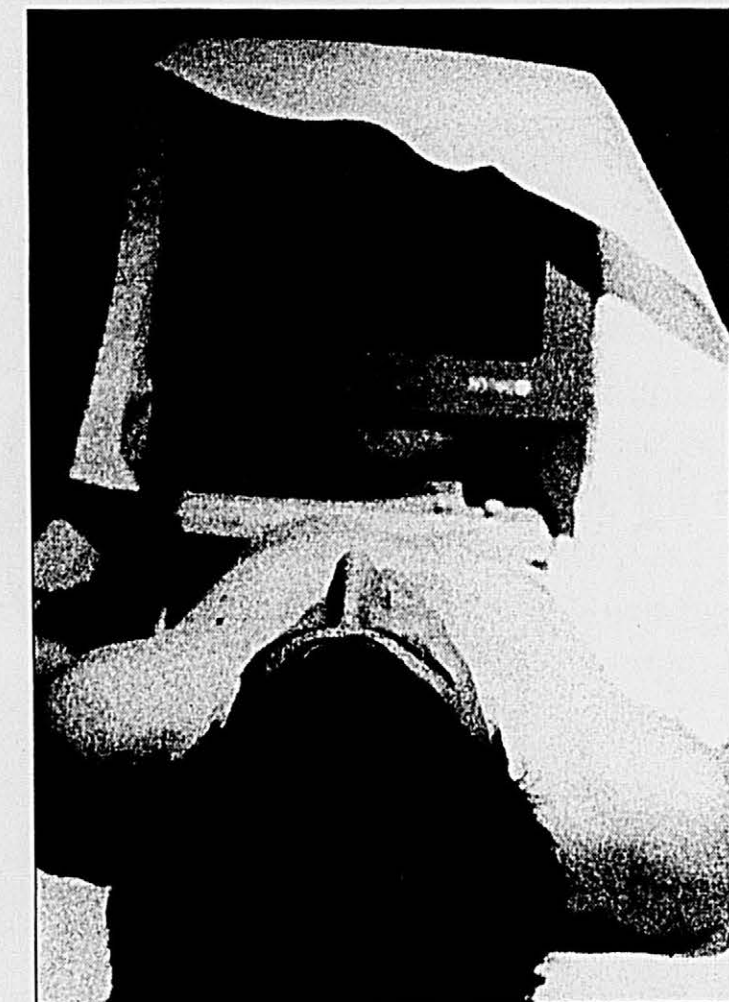
I was first exposed to Mighton's work when I studied his play *Possible Worlds* in a class last year. The Robert LePage version of the movie has since been released, and now Mighton's name is more commonly known. Hungry for more of the philosophy and science fiction, I read all of his plays and now I'm hooked.

After completing undergraduate and

artists to work their magic in between dancing sets. Mighton began to write his own short works, picking up on a hobby he had started in grade school. Like Sylvia Plath (one of his major influences) he taught himself to write by copying others.

New York proved to be an expensive place to produce his own works, especially since being Canadian prevented him from applying for US art grants. He returned to Toronto, where the mathematical chapter of his career began.

Looking for work, he responded to an ad looking for high school math tutors. He worked with students who had been pegged as the duller knives in the drawer, and discovered that all students could excel at math as long as they are instructed properly. Mighton started JUMP, a program that tutors underprivileged students, and ran the program out of his home for two years.



Rather interesting scenes from *Body and Soul*

The program has expanded, and now involves over 70 voluntary tutors.

As he tutored, Mighton realized how much he enjoyed math, and returned to university part-time. Just last year he completed his doctorate in knot theory at the University of Toronto, defending a thesis he discovered by accident (like so many great discoveries). In a nutshell, Mighton noticed some similarities between the pattern of the equations in knot theory (very advanced geometry) and some patterns in the development of neural nets. Neural nets are computers which have been developed to simulate the neural activity of the brain. Mighton discovered a link between artificial intelligence and a form of geometry. He's currently pursuing post-doctoral research in this area, which he now holds to be his main career.

It's a winding path, but there is in fact a link between all his areas of work. The method of analysis he learned in his philosophy studies have proven very useful in his approach to mathematics. What's more, his philos-

ophy places his math in a larger sociological context of scientific development. He's extremely aware of the impact the internet, genetic engineering and other advances have on us as individuals and humans in general. This awareness inspires his plays, and motivates him to bring hypothetical scientific situations to life on the stage.

I enjoyed having lunch with John Mighton the other day. He's an interesting person, with an interesting life story to tell. But the details of his life become insignificant the more one delves into the issues of his plays. At the time, he seemed to marginalize questions about his life, and I didn't understand why. I now realize that learning from Mighton doesn't have anything to do with meeting the man. The best approach to understanding his priorities and point of view, as well as his critiques of our society, is to watch or read his plays. Almost every line refers to a philosophy or argument, which is a reaction against some other philosophy or argument. On the surface, his plays look very simple, but it's another lesson for that well-worn edict. Never judge a book by its cover.

*Body and Soul* opens at Players Theatre on January 31 at 8 pm.





# Death, Donne, and Deformity

*Latham orchestrates endearing production of W;t*

BY RENATE ROBERTSON  
The McGill Daily

In the span of two hours, the Centaur Theater's production of *W;t* presents a torturous and gradual peeling away of emotional rhetoric to reveal, with tenderness and understanding, the simplicity of death. It is a gripping performance directed by David Latham that more than does justice to this Pulitzer-winning tale of a cancer-stricken middle-aged academic.

independent and voracious force, albeit a lonely one, trying to hide from death behind brilliance and wit. Vivian mocks the victimhood that she is forced to endure, and harshly spurns sentimentality, but not to the point of denial. Dunsmore is a perfect choice to play the drily humorous, honest Vivian. She strongly conveys Vivian's intelligence, her vulnerability, her physical pain and her sense of fatalism.

as well as the escapism expressed in a particular sonnet. These themes provide a framework in which she, and the audience, can contextualize Vivian's feelings. As the end of the play draws near and escape begins to seem less and less of an option, she begins to divest herself of paradox and pretension. "Now," she says, "is a time for simplicity." Accordingly she seems to grow younger. As the morphine pulls her under, she resembles a sleeping child. At the end, she refuses to hear Donne's poetry, and we have the sense that she has somehow freed herself,

stories, before they are pulled, inexorably, into the uncompromising hierarchy of a doctor-patient relationship. Ian Watson plays a young doctor on Dr. Bearing's case who took one of her courses as an English requirement in college. His love for research parallels her own, and his cold-hearted zeal for pure knowledge provides her with an uncomfortable mirror, though his bedside manner is too blatantly callous to be credible. As such, Watson could afford to underplay a bit. The difference between Watson's character and Dunsmore's is that, while Jason attempts to "quantify the complexities" of the mystery of life through his research, Vivian has come to understand that humanity cannot be quantified.

The set consists mainly of a massive, rolling, rectangular structure tiled in institutional green and graced with parallel aluminum railings and sliding doors through which actors enter and exit the set. It conveys well the impersonality of a hospital. Placed at various angles it doubles ingeniously as diagnostic and treatment equipment and conveys the impression of geographical difference. In

front of the structure there is an aluminum hospital bed equipped with a rolling I.V. stand. Vivian never strays far from her bed until the end of the play. At the very beginning, she is noticeably accompanied by her own shadow looming behind her as she speaks to the audience. It springs up behind her again during the flash of light that represents her chemotherapy treatments, bringing to mind the silhouettes left on the walls by those vaporized in the wake of a nuclear explosion. The sets and costumes were designed by David Gaucher. The lighting was designed by Luc Prairie.

This production is aggressive in reaching out to the emotions of the audience. It is highly successful in doing so, be warned. *W;t* ultimately constitutes a disturbing and intense journey, interspersed with love and humor, as well as ambition, terror, and helplessness. It is ultimately rewarding and redeeming.

*W;t* by Margaret Edson runs until February 18th at the Centaur Theatre in Old Montreal.



Rosemary Dunsmore plays Vivian Bearing, a renowned English scholar whose life is her work. She specializes in the poet John Donne, whose lines she quotes throughout the play. She invokes his poetry both as a means to try and understand her own imminent death, which we are informed is a foregone conclusion. It is also proof of her intellectualism, her most valued quality and one which she reaffirms desperately in her struggle against death.

Until the end of the play, even in flashbacks, Vivian is dressed in two johnny gowns, a pair of clogs, and a baseball cap to hide her bald head: a simple and unchanging costume that reminds the viewer of the omnipresence of Vivian's illness. Her shaven head brings attention to the sharp, penetrating face that reflects Vivian's personal razor-sharp wit. She speaks ironically to those around her without reverting to malicious sarcasm, except in the case of her students, toward whom she demonstrates little tolerance. Partner-less, family-less, she feels more at home with books than with most human beings, though she has a clear and deep perception of human nature.

What helps make her such a sympathetic character is the fact that we can hear her thoughts and thereby understand her weaknesses and in some way feel what she is feeling. In her head, she obsessively analyzes her medical terms by their Latin roots and literary connotations. Her mind, like the mind of a child, seems to operate as an

that she is ready to let go.

*W;t* also features a moving performance by Carol Hetherington as Vivian's college mentor, and a talented and realistic portrayal of the caring, pragmatic nurse, Susie, by Paula Jean Hixson. Peter Millard plays the doctor in charge of Vivian's case. Behind a newspaper, he also plays her father. In a brief moment of camaraderie at the beginning of the play, Dr. Bearing and Kelekian trade teaching

*Well, if you think it's witty...*

For about the first twenty minutes of the play Vivian is engaged in a continuous monologue about John Donne's work and the paradoxes she finds in them. She ruminates on the struggles that he has with his culture's concepts of God and forgiveness,

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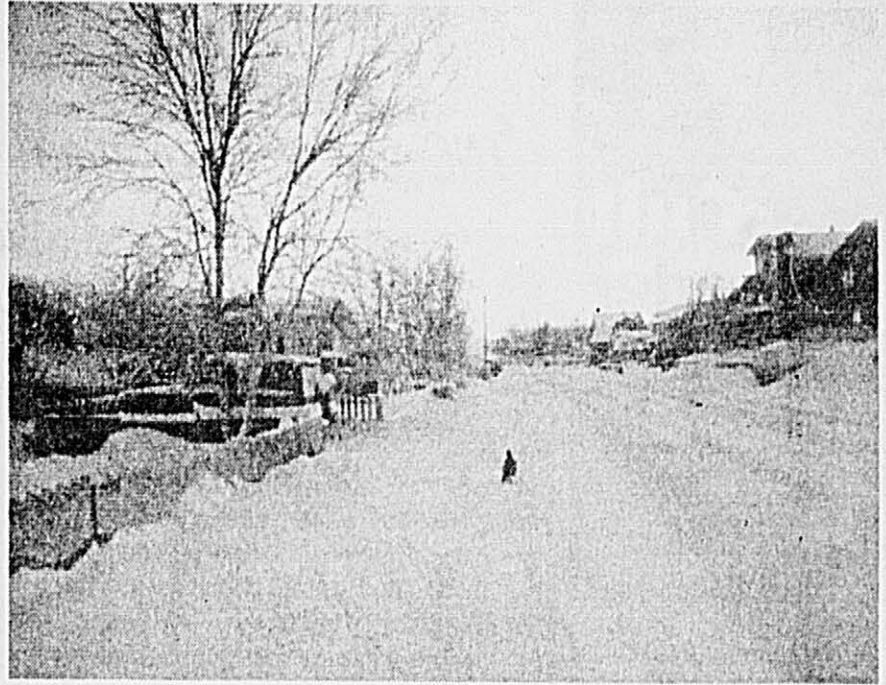
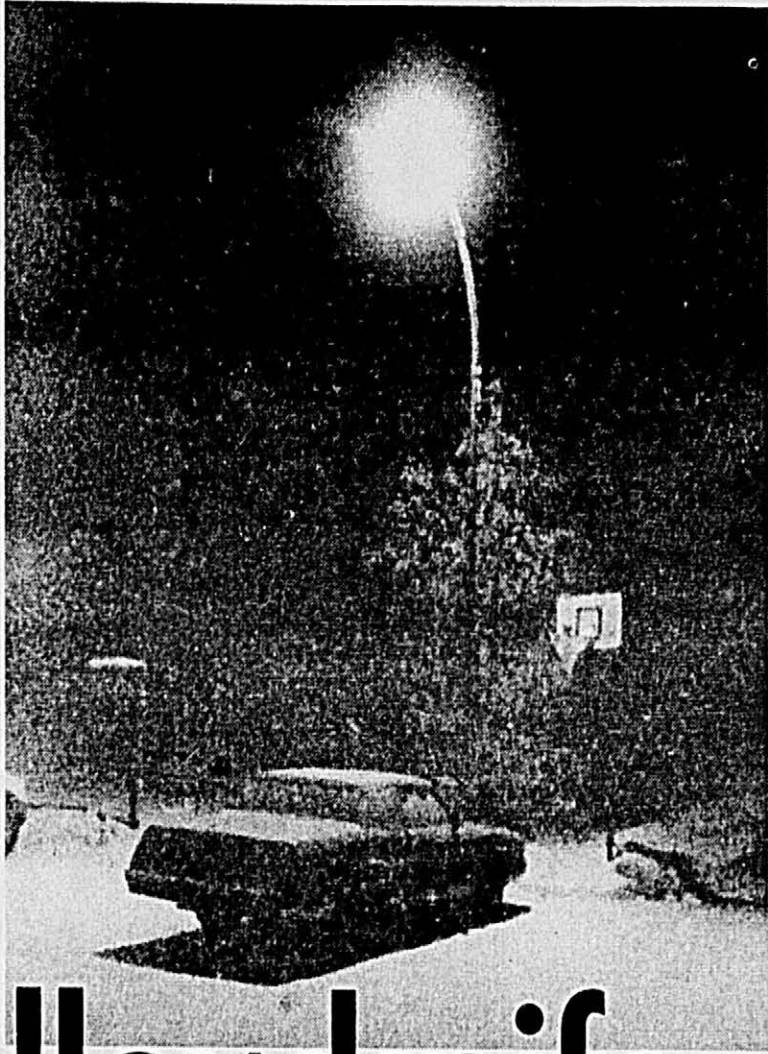
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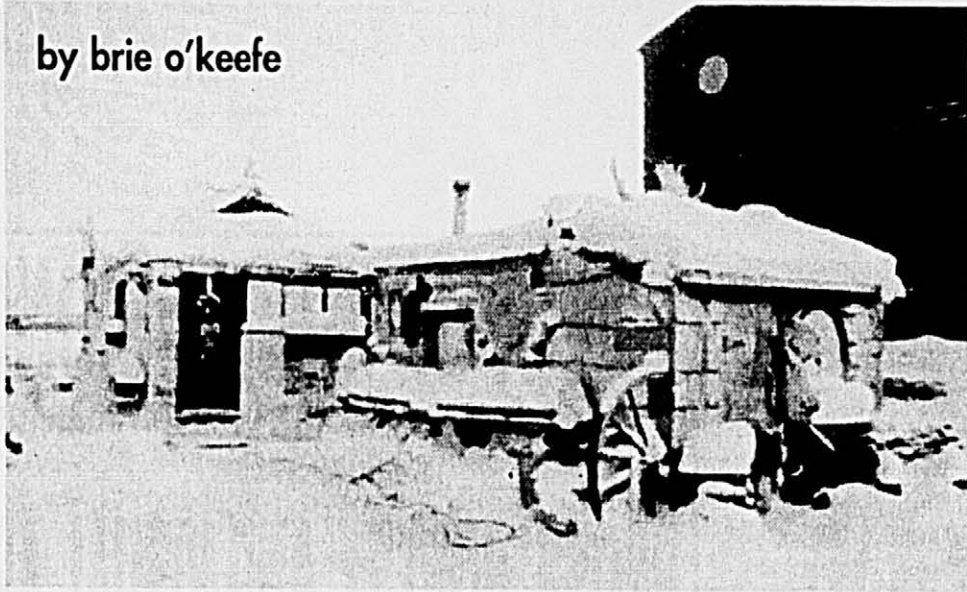


# december in yellowknife

by brie o'keefe



When temperatures drop below -40 something happens... Everything stops, grows still, and becomes somehow simpler. With only 4 hours of sunlight a day in December, it's also dark. Flying home to the frigid arctic conditions of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories after the balmy weather of Montreal, is a shock every time, but it's home, and holds a special place in my heart. Here we have a raven on an ominous evening, scenes from the Woodyard and a car across the street.



Ay fellow readers,

Have you noticed that we have the best photo essay these days? do you ever wonder why? do you cry of overwhelming happiness secretly sometimes? did you eat macaroni yesterday? all these questions revolving in your head. well, you can do them too. just bring your photos to Brie of Pierre Alain and they will jump for joy. Why are you waiting?

PS: The summer is also coming back so start choosing your T-shirts and bermuda shorts.

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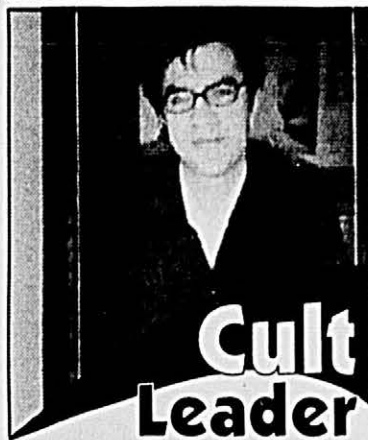
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## Cult Leader

*Poli-Sci student gives school a break to focus on film career*

**Name:** Zim Pickens

**Birthplace:** A tent somewhere in the backwoods of Vermont.

**Occupations:** Erstwhile McGill Poli-Sci Student, and Budding Filmmaker.

**Recent Forays:** Zim presented his film, *The Dreamachine*, to a boisterous crowd of about a hundred at McGill's Dawson Adams Hall in early January. *The Dreamachine* stars a slew of McGill students and makes background artists of many others. After the film, Zim hosted an informal question and answer session about the making of his forty-minute film. (Choice questions: "Zim, how did the nihilism, new world order stuff fit together, or are we supposed to figure that out for ourselves?" and "Are you an anarchist?") Shot on digital film, with the aid of Concordia student Matt Lyon, Zim's project began in September and wrapped in early December.

**Words from Zim:** "When I was younger, I played with Legos. I liked having a project to work on when I came from school. I missed that when I got here [to McGill], so I started writing down my ideas, stories. This project stemmed from those ideas. I looked at some of my themes, and things began to fall into place. I wrote the script this summer and had the actors sketched out in my mind. It was a lot of work, but I'm happy with it. I made a lot of editing mistakes, but I learned a lot. [The film] is about people's dreams and what creates them."

**Tell the Daily's loyal readership about filming at Warshaw:** "The cashiers acted in it and got really into it. I like it there. They were really nice."

**Zim's Sound Off:** "What good is a mansion if you're living alone?"

—Sarah Lazarovic

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# Frightened

*TNC pulls off excellent performance of Albee's Woolf*

BY DANIELLE HOFFMAN  
Culture Reporter

I am one of the few theatre fans who has not seen the critically acclaimed 1960s movie *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. I have no doubt, however, that last week's excellent Tuesday Night Café production of Edward Albee's masterpiece would have held its own against that well-known film. With astute casting, direction, and a cast of phenomenal actors, the show was one of the best I've seen this year.

The premise is simple: a middle aged couple, one a history professor of a local



Offering cold comfort

college and the other the daughter of the college president, invite a new biology professor and his young wife to their home for a few drinks. This seemingly innocuous situation becomes increasingly tense as the two young people, Honey and Nick, are drawn into the elaborate, cruel mind and word games played upon each other by George and Martha.

Although Edward Albee's sharp, cutting dialogue is one of the most memorable facets of the play, the acting skill exhibited is equally impressive. The play (nearly three hours in length) is exhausting for the audience, so caught up are they in the violent emotions onstage. The fact that the actors have as much energy and intensity at the powerful climax of the play as they did several hours before points to their considerable stamina. The characters can also be interpreted as standard types: the bitch, the nerd, the jock. Instead, Sarah Steinbock-Pratt brings depth and a refreshing vulnerability to the challeng-



Dancing is always apropos

ing role of Martha. Katy Pederson likewise gives more strength to the flighty Honey, and Jonathan Black's volatile George and Dror Yuravlivker as Nick are just as affecting. The play, which is dependent almost entirely on the force of its characters, is well-supplied by these actors and the direction of Leila Neila-Cadaxa.

In a school such as McGill where there aren't very many practical fine arts classes, the artistic talent in plays such as *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is inspiring. Although the play is very long and involved, it definitely produced a worthwhile evening of theatre.

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## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



# Black to the Basics

*Frank Black and the Catholics descend on the Cabaret*

BY PAUL BERRY  
Culture Reporter

With the Montreal concert scene observing its traditional winter lull, it was a delicious treat to have Frank Black and the Catholics pay

That's exactly the point. With the Catholics, Black has taken his one-of-a-kind rock odd-ball persona to new territories that the Pixies might never have gone to. Black's performance at Cabaret was proof that these Catholics are keepers and although the crowd did greet the Pixies

ground subtlety, Black had the entire crowd waiting on his every word. At the song's conclusion, the Man and his bandmates stood around for a minute, waving and breathing in the adoration with the contented faces of hosts who had just provided a very filling meal.



*One of the Catholics...*

our fair town a visit. Anticipation was high and the sold out Cabaret crowd greeted the legendary singer with heartfelt hollering as he and his band took to the stage to offer a retrospective of his prolific career.

The portly and huggable Black, wielding one of the larger belt buckles this writer had ever laid eyes on, strode out with his hands in his pockets and an aww-shucks look on his face. As he walked around the stage with a casual flair, Black glanced around at his place of work, taking on the appearance of a man whose office just happens to be located on the stage of a deafening concert hall. On this night, Black touched all bases, demonstrating that his oeuvre, a blend of work from both Pixies and solo days, is the stuff legends are made of. With some ten albums (band and solo) now under his aforementioned belt, Black has a long and varied list of songs to choose from. Black also debuted a helping of material from his brand spankin' new album, *Dog In The Sand*.

While most would certainly deem Black's Pixies material worthy of exaltation, his solo career has proven disappointing to some. Dropped from a couple of major labels, Black has instead carved out a nice little niche for himself, putting out impressive albums with the Catholics just below the collective radar. People tend to disregard much of Black's solo material on the grounds that it just isn't the Pixies.

numbers with decidedly louder praise, the response to Black's newer material could hardly be deemed lukewarm.

The band, making its third stop in town in under three years, was in top form. Since their last visit, Black has recruited a new Catholic, the skilled and baby-faced Dave Phillips, who along with lead guitarist Rich Gilbert spent a considerable portion of the night harvesting beautifully countrified twangs from their pedal steel guitars. On lead, Gilbert looks more and more like Garth from Wayne's World. With every passing year he emits all sorts of phenomenal noises and played one particular solo with a pair of trusty beer bottles.

Black seemed more comfortable than ever bringing out some treasures from his former band and there was an undeniable thrill in seeing Pixies songs like "Monkey Gone To Heaven" and "Gouge Away" performed live. Though not the same as seeing the masters themselves do it, it's the best that younger folk in the audience are ever going get. Although Black has Pixies guitarist Joey Santiago play on his new album and recently had drummer David Lovering's magic act (!) open for Black, the chances of seeing Frank and Kim Deal share a stage again are somewhere between slim and none.

Black closed the show with the beautiful Pixies number "Where Is My Mind?" With the Cabaret faithful delivering the song's requisite oohs at just-right back-

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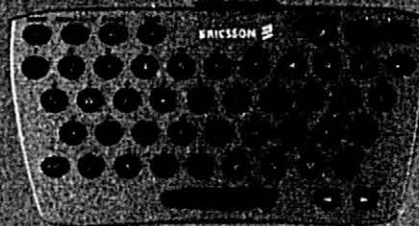
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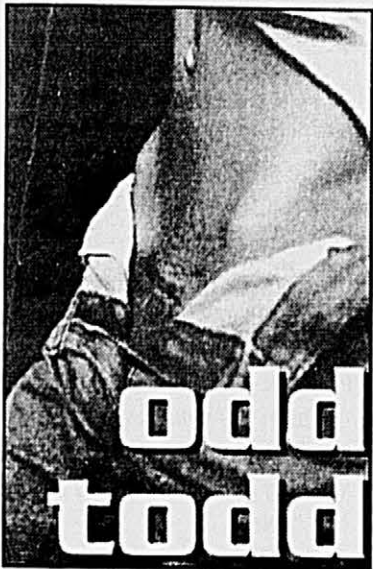
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# Mind & Body

## Queer Column Hits McGill

*Odd Todd comes out and drags us all with him*



Through my extensive research, I've been assured that many other kids were as excited as I was to come to university, releasing themselves from parental shackles and exiting the repressive, metaphoric closet of their home lives. They would finally live the life of an out individual. I had investigated. I went on the internet (probably the greatest invention to further homosexual mating since the public bathroom) and found LGBTM.

Eventually, I came to understand this was an acronym standing for lesbian, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders of McGill. How awesome was university going to be? There were other out gay people and transgenders!

So around rolls activities night, the most glorious night of the year, when all the clubs gather and hand out pamphlets. On that very festive day I entered the ballroom carrying my little pride flag, singing some highly stylised gay tunes, and then turned, horrified as I spotted a sign bearing the name "Queer McGill." Fear rushing over me, I ran to the Christian table and asked for penance. Little did I expect there to be a hate group at McGill, let alone one that was sponsored by the school.

I could not believe that such hatred would be tolerated, especially considering how gay a city Montreal is. I came to the conclusion that I would not be out, and not only would I be stuck in the proverbial closet, but also that I would be hunted by none other than the "Outing Club." First the Outing Club would find my posters of half-naked men, my Madonna CDs, and my rainbow bedspread, and then Queer McGill would kill me.

Eventually, as straight as I could be, I walked near to the table and upon closer

inspection realized that I could take everyone that was sitting behind the table. Still watching them, I started wondering how so many queer people could be gay-bashers, but then it came to me, finally. They were

***"..I know that I was not alone in my questioning the use of the word 'queer'. As far as I knew, queer was a four-letter word."***

***-Odd Todd***

bait. Someone had placed gay people at the table and other gay people would come and then would be terrorized. But I fell for it, because one of the guys was really hot.

Maybe I was a bit foolish in my fear, but I know that I was not alone in my questioning the use of the word "queer." As far

as I knew, queer was a four-letter word. I looked it up in *Completely Queer: The Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia*, and found that on the contrary, queer was a five-letter word. Queer is a word used "to describe persons...whose sexual desires or gender identity do not conform to socio-culturally constructed norms."

Originally meaning strange or abnormal, "queer" became a distinguishing term for more masculine men from their more effeminate "fairy" counterparts in the 1910s. The struggle over its usage, which still exists today, began within the queer community in the 30s and 40s. The conflict later reappeared in the activism of the late 80s and early 90s with the emergence of the group Queer Nation.

Although some say that the term "queer" sounds harsh and bigoted, others would reply that the word gives homosexuality back its edge and strengthens the community. Queer unifies activism, by bringing together the l, the g, the b, and the t, into one word, one movement, one com-

munity; "queer" releases the community from the male-centered term "gay". Also "queer" enforces anti-assimilation of the community and encourages people to be proud of their queerness, and to be proud of their not being "normal." We have taken back the word and it has made us stronger. Plus it rhymes with "here" and makes the chant "we're here, we're queer, we're not going anywhere" sound so much better. Imagine "we're here, we're gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited, ambisexual...oh, forget it."

*Odd Todd will appear in Mind&Body every week. Email him with comments, suggestions and general frivolity at [mindbody@mcgilldaily.com](mailto:mindbody@mcgilldaily.com).*

***It's all about the Mind & Body cutting-edge reporting, my friends. Come, Shatner Caf on Tuesdays at 4:30. Revolution!***



BY FRANKLIN SACKVILLE  
*The Daily Gourmand*

If McGill doesn't already instruct its tour guides to tell the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed young kids touring our decrepit campus about this city's famous 99-cent pizza parlours, they really should.

I know I chose this place for the plethora of cheap food that no other university in the country can offer. But at the same time, the tried and true gets tired after three years.

Between Madonna and Giovan, there's not a whole lot of variety. I've often found myself wanting some deep-dish Chicago style, or thin crust. Sure, you can find these variations if you look hard enough, but

they aren't readily available at all hours or conveniently located. That's why it's nice to see the emergence of Ghetto Pizza.

The Lorne Avenue pizzeria, less than fifty paces



from Milton Gates, is attempting to stay afloat selling Italian food where short-lived Bucco could not. Unlike the overabundance of 99 cent places, they serve up more unusual (and slightly more expensive) pies.

The "Aloha" is their version of a Hawaiian and is indicative of the Ghetto Pizza modus operandi. The ham is huge slices of pig buried under mozzarella, while the pineapple seems to have been soaked in

beer. Either that, or when I had it, it had gone bad, but I'm giving them the benefit of the doubt. Also of note is the "Coco Loco," which features large chunks of chicken and bacon. Each pizza is crowned with a ball of semi-cooked dough, as old school joints did back in the day. I

**bad**

think this fated dough ball may have expanded in my stomach, however, leading to the sensation of imminent gastric explosion that required a half-hour lie-down on the recliner.

Depending on the mood you're in, this decadence can be ideal or over the top. It is best to curb your enthusiasm when ordering, however. I made the mistake of ordering two extra-larges for \$23, which seemed reasonable for 16 inch pies. This turned out to be more than enough for my party, leaving several guests passed out on the

chesterfield, possibly drunk on pineapple. Even those who normally eat two or three slices will find themselves running out of steam after the first slice.

Unfortunately, if you're looking for a slice on the walk home from school, you're out of luck. The closest thing they have is a 6 inch pizza for \$2.99, but it takes them ten minutes to prepare.

Thus, while Madonna and all the rest of the sub-standard 'za offerings fill their niches in the scheme of a quick, "after-club or school single slice of rubberdom," Ghetto Pizza attempts to rise above the delivery status quo, and "beerly" manages to squeak by on the pizza passability scale.

*Ghetto Pizza (844-3886) is located at 3555 Lorne Avenue, between Milton and Prince Arthur. They're open from noon to midnight Monday to Saturday and from ten to midnight on Sunday.*

***Got something relevant to say? Well, don't come to the Shatner Caf at 4:30 on Tuesdays for Mind&Body meetings.***

**HEY, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT?**

Why has The Main decided that we need another matzoh ball in the matzoh ball soup? I always did just fine with the standard two. And I don't appreciate paying an extra 75 cents for a matzoh I didn't even want in the first place.

The usually sociable waitress has categorically ruled out serving it the old way, so unless you have three people who want to split two of these abnormal bowls, you're plain out of luck.

To quote Woody Allen in Bananas, "It's travesty of a mockery of a sham of a mockery of a travesty of two mockeries of a sham." I would urge my more politically active readers to see if we can have a referendum this semester on the removal of this extra matzoh ball.

*-Franklin Sackville*



# Probing the Seamy Underworld of Intramural Sports

*Slog continues to examine the intramural intricacies of McGill University*

BY ARNI SLOG  
Mind and Body Reporter

Super sleuth Arni Slog caught up with the elusive and mysterious Prairie Fire team member who wishes to remain anonymous. The following is a covert account of their conversation, recorded in a misty basement storage closet. He would not remove his black face mask.

**Daily:** So, *Mysterious Intramural Hockey Player*, tell me a bit about your team.

**Mysterious Intramural Hockey Player:** I've never been interviewed before! Well, the Prairie Fire is a well rounded team. We've got players from Nova Scotia all the way to BC. We've got a fine mix of offensive power as well as defensive intelligence. Oh, and the ability to break a game wide open at any

moment.

**Daily:** What makes intramural hockey different from regular hockey?

**MIHP:** It's non contact. That frees up the little guys to allow them to use speed a bit more and makes it a more offensive game. Also, instead of three periods, it's split into two halves of 22 minutes each. Since it's a university sport, we use the CIAU rules of no two line pass which is different from regular North American junior hockey rules.

**Daily:** How do you feel about the noncontact, personally, seeing as you were a former hockey champ back in the day?

**MIHP:** Personally, I prefer the contact sport.

**Daily:** Do you have any standout players we should be watching out for?

**MIHP:** All our players are worthy of playing at the "A" level, and we've found

some good combinations to form offensive lines as well as some solid defensive pairings. Everyone contributes their own individual talent to the team.

**Daily:** Any locker room hanky panky?

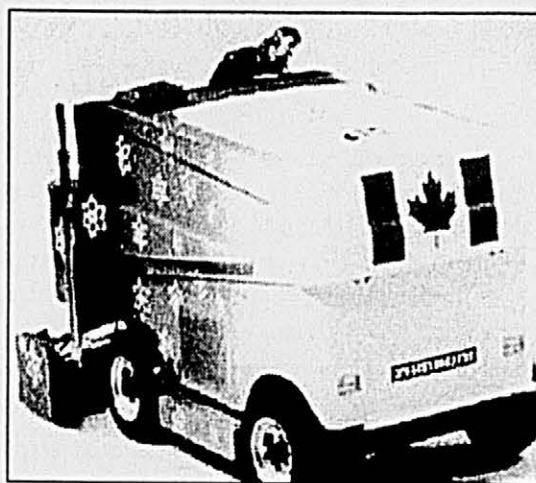
**MIHP:** Locker room hanky panky?! What's said in the locker room stays in the locker room.

**Daily:** I see. So do you have any pregame rituals?

**MIHP:** No, not really. And if we did, I wouldn't tell you.

**Daily:** Greeeat....so when's your next matchup?

**MIHP:** Sunday February 4th at 1:00



*This Zamboni is similar to the one that cleans up all the bloody debris after the Prairie Fire make mincemeat out of their hapless opponents...*

against Syd, in the McConnell Arena.

**Daily:** How does your season look overall? do you have a shot at the cup, er, mug?

**MIHP:** So far, we're sitting at 6-1-1,

tied for first place with Wolf Pack. If our team comes out to play for the full 44 minutes, we have a chance at the [coveted intramural champion] mug. But this is a very competitive league and any team could win any game if they're out for it.

**Daily:** Well good luck to you and the rest of the Prairie Fires. We'll be sure to watch. By the way, what's your favourite kind of pie?

**MIHP:** Uh, er, apple. Thanks...I think...I gotta go. [exits cautiously, then runs near the end of the hall, looking anxiously over his shoulder and brandishing a rather threatening, razor-bladed hockey stick].

*Do you have an extraordinary intramural team that Slog could discover? Email your suggestions to mindnbody@mcgilldaily.com and if you're lucky, he'll give you a call.*

*I've always wanted to...*

## PLAY CHESS IN A TOURNAMENT

**What:** Preliminary chess tournament to determine who will play in the first-ever InterUniversity Chess Tournament between Bishop's and McGill

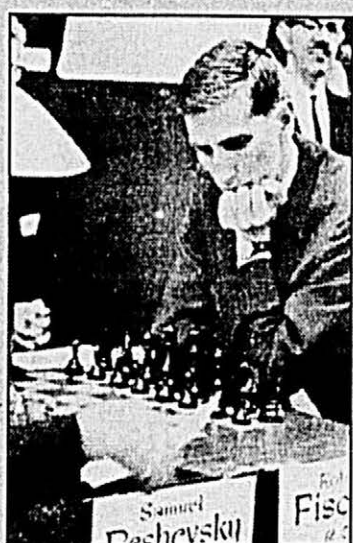
**Where:** Shatner Caf, 2nd floor

**Cost:** \$5, which covers food, refreshments, good chess and the possibility of winning cash prizes or a trophy!

**When:** Begins at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 3. Your registration and fee must be in to Farahnaz Noei by Feb. 27 though, so hop to!

**Contact:** Email Farahnaz Noei at dfaraji@hotmail.com for more information and guidelines.

**Comments:** Who doesn't want to play lots of good chess? The McGill Chess Club plays every Friday night from 6-8 p.m. in the Shatner Cafeteria, and everyone is welcome to come try out their fancy moves. Go if you think you can come in the top four, and you'll get cash prizes. Coming in the top two? Trophies galore. Not only that, but the winners will go on to play in the famed Bishop's vs. McGill Chess Tournament in March! Oh yeah, and food will be there too, so what do you have to lose??



*Try to be like Bobby Fischer and walk away with fame, fortune and free food.*

## Incredible Soup

*L<sup>2</sup>: Blending the Beautiful*

This is incredible soup. That's all there is to it. Reminiscent of the consistency of baby food, this warm and filling soup is perfect for those nasty mcrasty days when the salt has solidified into hunks on your shoes and the puddles in front of the sidewalks are insurmountable. Best of all, this soup is not that hard to make! So listen up:

You will need:

- 3 peeled sweet potatoes
- 2 peeled pears
- 2 or 3 Tablespoons of margarine
- 1 chopped up red onion
- 5 cups of vegetable broth

1. Put the margarine in a big pot or Dutch oven (yeah right, like anyone has a Dutch oven in university...) and heat on high.
2. Add the onions and saute until tender.
3. Dump everything else in the pot and bring to a boil.
4. Reduce heat to simmer and let it sit there for 40 minutes. Go for a run or something. If it's crappy outside, watch some Oprah reruns. Or not.
5. Put all the mush into a food processor or use a hand blender and blend until the consistency is smooth and perfect.
6. Now you can eat it!
7. Add some baguette and chai tea and you're in the zone.

*Recipe ideas? Email me at mindnbody@mcgilldaily.com*

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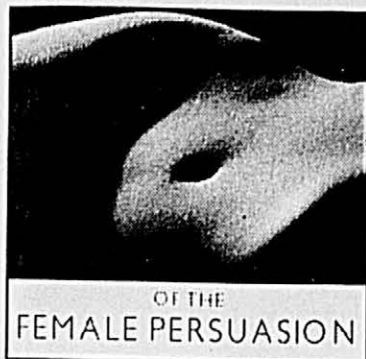
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# Vaginas 101

*Your road map to the bodies' most mystic organ*



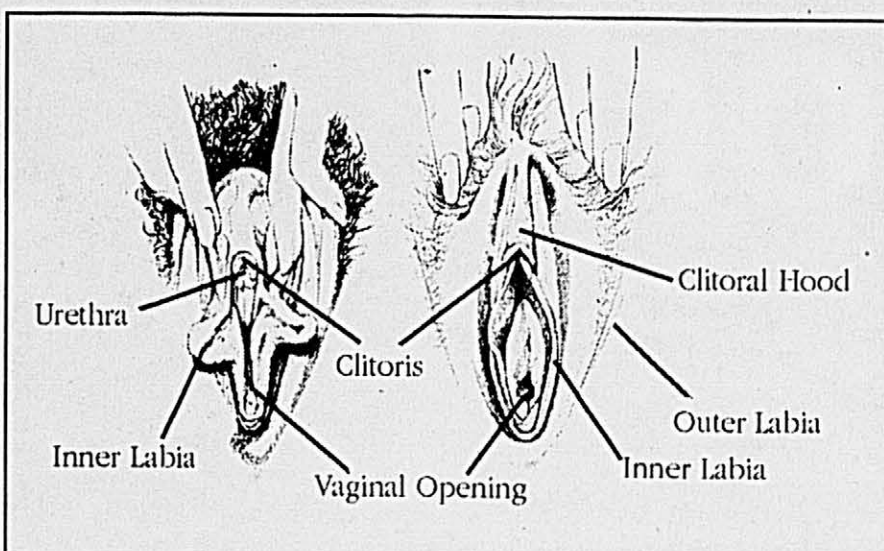
BY RANDI REYES  
The McGill Daily

The female genitalia has become the uncharted territory and final bodily frontier of our times. Whether it is through monologues, art, new forms of plastic surgery or *Sex in the City*, vaginas are everywhere these days and as a woman, I can't help but sit up and listen.

If there is one organ in a woman's body that is a mystery to her, it's her vagina. I mean, you can't really see it, and at any time it could be doing anything. Vaginas have been known to smell, itch, discharge, and pretty much behave independently of

you. The fact that it is also pretty much impossible to discreetly compare vaginas in the locker room to allow for a sense of the "norm" adds to a general lack of confidence among women as to whether or not their vagina is a normal one.

I mean, let's face it, we've all had the sex talk, and we were all told that "everyone is different, and not to worry, our bodies are changing and that's normal," but I don't really think women or men are ever really led to understand just how different vaginas and their surrounding parts can be. Up until I was about sixteen



*Different, and yet the same*

**"The road to orgasm is paved with intimate knowledge of the vagina, boys."**

I wasn't really aware of my own sexual organs and their shape and contours. I mean, getting out the old mirror and taking a look-see was a weird new-age lesbian thing, wasn't it? But after a fledgling sexual experience, where my boyfriend, looking confused, said "Um, it's funny that you

have this here," I was inspired to begin a new era of paranoia and vaginal-self-deprecation in my life.

To be sexually defective is a blow unlike any other. Our society, with its clearly defined gender distinctions, renders the sexually ambiguous freaks and the sexually defective outcasts. I know now that there is nothing wrong with me, and that there wasn't then, but it took a trip to the doctor after two years of secret fear to discover this. My ex-boyfriend, who thought himself wordly enough to have been able to identify some obscure defect in my genitalia, was

long gone before this discovery was ever made and it still bothers me that he wasn't around to share in my triumph at being normal. He, who had been with a total of one other person before me, thought himself enough of an expert to know. Where he got this wordly experience, be it from porn movies or a well worn copy of *See How You Grow*, is anyone's guess.

Women now have the option of paying for someone to make their labias, (inner and outer), clitoral hoods, or general vaginal capacity exactly the way they are "supposed" to be. They can mutilate

themselves and often risk permanent sexual numbness in the process. I know I was willing to. It's easy to see that this is the product of our materialistic society who bases women's value on looks, the fight against which I'll leave to the Fembot. But women's sexual health is my domain and I'm pissed.

Women are beginning to explore their vaginas and their sexuality today more than ever before and even though we still are at a stage where the most comfortable time to discuss vaginas and their health is in a discreet format, involving only women, boys need to know too! And they shouldn't be afraid.

The women's sexuality movement has suddenly held up a big flashing billboard to all of mankind that says not only that women deserve orgasms, but that, for the most part, they are inadequate to the task. Not to call males indifferent, as I believe most of them really want to please their girlfriends/lovers and are unaware and/or deceived by all those women out there who will fake orgasms. But the road to orgasm is paved with intimate knowledge of the vagina, boys, and it really isn't something to be afraid of. After all, we all came out of one.

## In upcoming issues of the effervescent Mind & Body section...

- Results of the PussyPoll, which will be at a campus near you this coming week.

- A published scientific study of the benefits/effects/detriment of various energy and candy bars.

- A report on SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder)

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So, as I was saying, I get to do a lot of thinking while I am doing things that are so stupid inducing like, for instance, the classifieds. Something I wonder about is why some people walk so close to you on the sidewalk. You know the ones I mean, the ones that feel like they are going to climb right up your bum. What are they thinking? That you will magically wink out of existence, thus allowing them to walk right through you? It makes me more than just a little irate. Then again, most things do. Regards, **Uncle Cam**

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Team members



**Team Player's**  
RACING IN THE C.A.R.T. SERIES